

Russian spies 'listen to' defence calls

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Soviet spies have been able to listen to telephone calls between officials in the Ministry of Defence, it was disclosed last night.

And staff have apparently not heeded warnings against discussing classified information on the telephone.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, is so concerned about the potential danger that he has called in a signals unit of the Royal Air Force to tap the telephones of defence ministry staff to discourage them from breaching instructions.

He said in a parliamentary written reply last night: "The risk of interception by hostile intelligence services of official telephone calls, including those made on the Government telephone network, is growing continually.

"My department's security regulations contain explicit instructions warning against the discussion of classified information on the telephone but I have decided that further action is required to ensure that those instructions are complied with."

It was confirmed that the ministry's 14,000 staff in London, in addition to hundreds of others at RAF, Army and Navy bases elsewhere, could be the subject of the telephone "monitoring exercises" to be carried out by the signals unit over the next few months.

Mr Younger said that the investigation would be confined to certain internal Ministry of Defence lines but it was confirmed that staff could use their internal phones to make external calls.

"Calls on the public network will not be monitored," he said.

Staff are being advised of the move in letters, and the unions have already been informed.

They are being told that if they have to talk about classified matters they should do so face-to-face or using the "safe" telephones that are available.

Whitehall sources said last night that the level of abuse was not known. It was said that the idea of the move was to see whether classified matters were being discussed on open telephones.

"We know that hostile intelligence services are capable of monitoring telephone conversations on open lines," a spokesman said.

Asked whether it was known that Eastern European intelligence services had been listening in, a senior source replied: "It would be unwise to assume that they were not. We have to assume that they are."

The proposals seemed certain last night to cause a row.

Mr Gerry Robson, secretary of the Council of the Civil Service Union at the ministry, said: "Our reaction is one of complete astonishment that they should find the need to do such a thing. I am absolutely appalled."

Mr Michael Mates, a member of the Commons Select Committee on Defence and an expert on intelligence matters, said that he had "not the slightest doubt" that Russian spies were monitoring the telephone services.

He said: "I am perfectly certain that they have infiltrated the network."

"They will have people in British Telecom. It is the way they operate. They will be using every single part of their technology to learn what we do and how we operate."

Mr Francis Pym, the former Foreign Secretary, said he had no doubt that they had tried to listen in. "Everyone tries to listen in on every line."

Mr Robert Atkins, Conservative member for South Ribbles, whose question produced Mr Younger's announcement, said last night: "This has been a matter of concern for some time. Security needs tightening up on all sorts of things."



John Demjanjuk, flanked by two Israeli policemen, taking his first steps on Israeli soil after his arrival from the United States at Ben Gurion airport

'Ivan the Terrible' in Israel

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

The man who the state of Israel believes personally executed one out of every nine of the six million Jews exterminated by the Nazis arrived in the country on board a jumbo jet yesterday to stand trial for mass murder.

In his rumpled brown suit and open necked shirt, John Demjanjuk looked less tired than the other 460 passengers arriving on the 11-hour direct El Al flight from New York. He had travelled in comparative style in a chartered off area of the business class, with an escort of US marshals and Israeli security guards.

As he stepped out of the aircraft "Operation Justice" swung into action. He was met by police officers, court officials and a Ukrainian interpreter who advised him of his rights under Israeli law. He was told he would be prosecuted under the Nazis and Nazi Collaborators (Punishment) Law of 1950.

Under this law, anyone who had "done during the period of the Nazi regime in an enemy country an act constituting a crime against the Jewish people... is liable to the death penalty."

He was marched into the specially hired armoured car which whisked him the short distance to Ayalon top-security prison at Ramle, where Adolf Eichmann was held during his trial nearly 25 years ago. Eichmann was hanged and cremated near the prison.

Only three days earlier the prison service had been asked to prepare a special cell and the glaring bright yellow paint on the walls is scarcely dry. His seven personal guards will keep him under 24-hour watch.

Yesterday, the 66-year-old prisoner was given a medical check up before being led through four sets of security doors to his cell.

The guards have been specially drilled among serving Druze and Sephardic Jewish officers. The prison authority wanted to be sure.

Continued on page 16, col 4

Ministers appeal to Ulster people

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government is appealing to the Protestant population of Ulster over the heads of its leaders in an attempt to persuade them that a campaign of disruption will not weaken its adherence to the Anglo-Irish agreement and can only damage the province.

Senior ministers predicted yesterday that intimidation by "loyalist" hardliners would probably make Monday's one-day strike in Northern Ireland effective, but they warned that Unionists would be misguided if they felt that a campaign of disruption could force the Government to go back on an agreement approved by an overwhelming majority of the United Kingdom Parliament.

The Prime Minister called on Unionists yesterday to think long and hard before embarking on a course of strikes and stoppages, action which could only damage ordinary people, particularly the elderly and sick, and harm the economic life of the province.

But it is clear that ministers believe that the strike on Monday, and any subsequent action, could turn to the Government's advantage if it shows that the Protestant community does not want to defy the British Parliament and go down the road of industrial disruption.

They believe that the circumstances are far different from 1974 when loyalist action brought down the power-sharing executive, although they wonder whether that is

Cheaper oil sends pound lower

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The pound fell sharply yesterday in response to renewed oil price weakness. Sterling dropped 3.1 cents to \$1.4522, and was later quoted in New York at \$1.4471.

The pound also fell by six pence to DM3.2327, another record closing low against the mark.

The fall came as oil prices slid towards \$12 a barrel. North Sea Brent crude oil for delivery in April was quoted at \$13.70 a barrel, but Brent oil for May delivery was trading at \$12.70 a barrel.

The latest decline for sterling has upset hopes for an early cut in base rates, although the general expectation is still for a small reduction about Budget time.

Money market interest rates improved by up to ¼ point yesterday, although they are still consistent with a reduction in base rates. But share prices were upset by the sharp fall in the pound. The FT-30 share index fell by 4.1 points to 1277.4.

The dollar, which has been under heavy pressure recently, stayed on the sidelines yesterday, as attention switched to the pound. The announcement of a record \$16.46 billion (£11.1 billion) US trade deficit for January left the dollar unscathed.

This was despite the fact that Mr Malcolm Baldrige, US Secretary of Commerce, had said that the dollar needed to go lower to correct the trade deficit.

The Bank of England yesterday announced additional special facilities of £1 billion to help ease money market pressures in the peak tax-paying season.

There was a record £1.8 billion money market short age yesterday. Although the pound's fall against the European currencies will help exporters - in two days it has dropped 30 pence against the mark - industry is getting restive about the volatility of currencies.

This week the pound has been both the strongest and the weakest major currency, almost rising above \$1.50 earlier in the week.

The latest drop in oil prices will further limit the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre in his Budget.

Weather puts freeze on sport

By Robin Young

Wintery weather has laid waste to the weekend sport again, after a month in which not a day passed without snow falling somewhere in the British Isles.

By last night 10 first class football matches in England, and eight in Scotland, had been postponed. Though the two rugby international matches at Cardiff and Twickenham are definitely on, most club rugby in the South is just as definitely off.

Even the Irish will again be without horse racing this weekend, as hopes of their staging a meeting at either Navan or Leopardstown finally succumbed to the freezing temperatures. All horse racing on mainland Britain has been abandoned for the fourth successive weekend.

The Torpids college boat races at Oxford and the Lents at Cambridge are both off because of ice covering the rivers Isis and Cam.

The Thames Water Authority sent engineers with pickaxes, sledges, hammers and blow-torches in an attempt to free frozen weirs and lock gates and maintain water levels in the river.

Stewart Wrightson, the insurance broker, says that most sports organizers do not insure against postponement or cancellation and are thus suffering financial losses. But Stewart Wrightson has itself decided not to insure its sponsorship of the annual Army v Navy rugby match to be played at Twickenham on March 8.

The group says there is no record of the game being postponed because of adverse weather, and the last time any match was postponed at Twickenham, where there was a pitch inspection yesterday, was in the notorious winter of 1947.

British Gas announced that gas output set a record of 9,197 million cubic feet during the 24 hours to 6 am on Thursday, beating the previous record of 9,107 million cubic feet which was set on February 4.

The London Weather Centre last night confirmed that last month had proved the coldest since 1947 and the second coldest this century. But it had been drier than usual. Forecast, page 16

Next week

MONDAY

Glimmer of hope



New research on schizophrenia has profound implications for the families of those who suffer from it.

Iron maiden
She's tough, Thatcherite... and French

WEDNESDAY

Art or craft?



Is the Getty museum's \$6million old master a forgery? The experts decide

Portfolio

There is £22,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today - the £20,000 weekly prize and £2,000 in the daily competition. Yesterday's £2,000 daily prize was shared by three readers, Mrs K Couper of London SW18, Mr Stuart Wright of Wheatstone, London N20, and Mr R Kember of Wafford, Herts.

Portfolio list page 32; how to play, information service, page 16.

Marcos \$1m

A US Air Force plane brought more than \$1 million in Philippine currency to Hawaii, new home of former President Marcos. Back page Economic alarm, page 6

Haiti threat

The new Government in Haiti has announced it will press for the extradition of Mr Jean-Claude Duvalier, the former dictator now temporarily living in France. Page 4

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Mubarak show of strength after riot

From Robert Fisk, Cairo

Having dismissed his Interior Minister and ordered his Army to crush the remnants of this week's police mutiny, President Mubarak, of Egypt yesterday tried to demonstrate the credibility of his regime by driving in a motorcade to within a few hundred yards of the barracks from which the mutiny broke out, announcing blandly that his near-bankrupt Government would repair the £120 million damage.

It was a significant performance. Less than 30 minutes after Government soldiers had stormed into the police barracks at Giza - shooting their way into the compound and ordering some of their prisoners to crawl from the gates on their hands and knees - he arrived by helicopter beside the Pyramids for what looked more like a victory visit than a display of political self-confidence.

He came protected by four Gazelle helicopter gunships, by Jeep-loads of blue-helmeted Presidential Guards, four armoured personnel carriers and - just down the road from the old Mena House Hotel - by an M60 tank.

Yet there was no doubting Mr Mubarak's fury as he toured the gutted luxury hotels, wagging his finger, he turned angrily to the ministers standing beside him. "Take this to the military prosecutor," he shouted. If the police are tried by military courts, the hearings will almost certainly be in secret.

The last hours of the police mutiny at midday yesterday were marked by three sustained outbursts of shooting from heavy machineguns and

BA fears further delay on sell-off

The Government is believed to be close to a decision on whether to delay further the privatization of British Airways, which has been held up for 18 months by legal battles.

There are fears within BA that the sale may be put back beyond the preferred date of June or July until after the British Gas flotation.

KGB reveals big snoop on state spies

From Christopher Walker Moscow

The KGB has recently completed a big snoop in Moscow, which led to the arrest of a number of Soviet employees of ministries and other important state organizations on charges of passing secret information to the West.

The arrests were disclosed for the first time yesterday when Mr Viktor Chebrikov, the man who has headed the shadowy security body since 1982, addressed Soviet and foreign delegates attending the 27th Congress of the Communist Party.

"These persons received strict but just punishment in accordance with the law," he said. This remark was interpreted by foreign diplomats as meaning that some, if not all, had been shot.

No further details were available about the roundup, on one of the few occasions when the Kremlin has been prepared to acknowledge openly the large-scale penetration of Moscow by agents recruited by the West.

But Mr Chebrikov told the congress that the US and Nato secret services undertake persistent efforts to compromise the Soviet Union's domestic and foreign policy. They seek to acquire our political, military, economic, scientific and technical secrets, to penetrate into state institutions, important defence

BA fears further delay on sell-off

next week, and the matter could also go before the Cabinet.

A delay would be a bitter blow to BA's management. The delay has been caused by actions in the Los Angeles District Court against British Airways and other airlines for loss of earnings because of the collapse of Laker. That could come to a conclusion on March 17

facilities and research institutes."

Mr Chebrikov, a full member of the Politburo, delivered a uncompromising report which was seen by Western observers as underlining the tough line which Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, intends to pursue against Soviet "refuseniks" and other dissidents.

The well-received speech followed the praise lavished on the KGB during Mr Gorbachev's five-hour address at the opening of the congress. The Soviet leader made clear that the activities of the KGB would be expanded to counter what he described as growing subversion in the Soviet Union by Western intelligence agencies.

Hitch in teacher pay talks

By Lucy Hodges

Talks to resolve the teachers' pay dispute were still going on in London last night after seven hours.

The provisional pay agreement reached at the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service was due to be ratified by the Burnham Negotiating Committee yesterday, but there was a hitch when the biggest teachers' union said it was illegal.

The National Union of Teachers, which opposes the Acas settlement, claimed that the agreement could not be ratified by the Burnham Committee because it covered conditions of service issues as well as pay.

It said this contravened the 1965 Remuneration of Teachers Act

Rank may sue IBA over bid

By Cliff Feitham

The Rank Organisation is planning to take the Independent Broadcasting Authority to court in its battle for Granada, the motorway services and leisure group.

Rank last night set the IBA a deadline of 10 am Monday to reconsider its decision not to let Rank acquire the Granada television franchise for £740 million.

Mr Michael Gifford, Rank's chief executive, said: "We believe there are grounds for saying that the IBA has not discharged its duties in accordance with the 1981 Broadcasting Act."

Earlier this week, the IBA ruled the Rank bid for Granada unacceptable. It has since refused to discuss its reasons.

A statement from Rank last night said it had told the IBA it needed to know whether the decision would be reviewed.

"Unless a satisfactory reason is forthcoming by Monday, Rank intends to commence high court proceedings for a judicial review of the IBA's fulfilment of its duties under the 1981 Act."

"Rank has taken this step on the advice of leading counsel and after consultation with a number of major shareholders of Rank and Granada, with the objective of speedily securing for Granada shareholders the unfettered opportunity of making a proper evaluation of the bid."

The statement added: "The IBA are not saying we are improper people to take over the franchise. They are simply saying it is not their policy to allow franchisees to change hands and that is the end of the affair. We believe their responsibility should go beyond this."

US Fury, page 5

Life firms fight claims

Leading life assurance offices are fighting claims for hundreds of thousands of pounds on policies and pension funds sold through a broking firm now in liquidation.

The receipt of the contributions, largely from pension funds and life assurance premiums, is disputed.

Family Money, page 30

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Tremor risks to nuclear plants being studied

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A review of the risk to the first generation of Magnox nuclear power stations to earthquake shocks is being made by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

The study is a response to assertions that the two earlier stations at Calder Hall, in Cumbria, and Chapelcross, on the Solway Firth, built for producing plutonium, could collapse if struck by a seismic tremor.

In an interim statement yesterday, the inspectorate said it was confident that "the margin of pessimism" built into the original calculations ensured that the stations would withstand earthquakes.

Although the threat of earthquakes had not been considered when the Magnox series of nuclear stations were built, the inspectorate had subsequently looked at the risk.

The reassurance from the Government's safety organization, which issues licences to operate nuclear power stations, provides some respite for British Nuclear Fuels, which operates the two stations.

British Nuclear Fuels last night admitted that its stations were not designed to resist "seismic effects" when they were built in the 1950s. But it emphasized that it was confident that plutonium-producing reactors were safe.

The reactors supply electricity to the grid as a by-product of creating plutonium for weapons. The main reactors at Calder Hall form part of the Sellafield site, at which a team of 10 scientists and engineers from the inspectorate began an audit on Thursday.

The investigation comes after the recent leaks at British Nuclear Fuels reprocessing plant on the Sellafield site.

The company said a detailed technical reply about the possibility of the reactors collapsing was being prepared. British Nuclear Fuels was confident that the safety of the reactors had been confirmed by the assessments that had been sent to the inspectorate

and were now under consideration. It is those assessments that are at the heart of the new dispute. They were requested by the nuclear inspector six years ago, after a seismic tremor in December 1979.

The disturbance was the third largest earthquake recorded in Britain, and its centre near Carlisle was only 15 miles from the Chapelcross power station.

In common with Calder Hall and Chapelcross, the other commercial power stations were not designed specifically to be resistant to seismic effects.

The work used the same approach now being applied in the design of new nuclear plants, such as the plans for Sizewell in Suffolk.

Analyses of the type of components and equipment was made for British Nuclear Fuels by the consultants, Principia Mechanical, using vibration testing where possible.

But the work was done in two stages, and there were two reports. In the first, by a group working with Mr Peter Phelan, and submitted in 1983, the likelihood of collapse because of a tremor was put at between one in 100 and one in 1,000.

The explanation was simple. The nuclear cores at the Calder Hall station are contained in steel vessels, which are enclosed in a concrete building.

Four anti-nuclear campaigners failed yesterday in the latest round of their attempt to take the Government to court about its defence policy.

At the High Court in London, two judges refused Mr Tom Richards, Miss Joyce Appleby, Mr Eddie Douglall and his wife, Helen, leave to challenge the refusal of a magistrate at Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk to allow them to start a criminal prosecution against the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Defence (the Press Association reports).

Hardliners head Unionist protest

Prominent hardline members of the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party are expected to lead Monday's strike throughout Northern Ireland against the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Increasingly the joint campaign of opposition to the Hillsborough pact is seen to be directed by the DUP, with diminishing influence from the larger Official Unionist Party, under Mr James Molyneux.

At the same time the DUP deputy leader, Mr Peter Robinson, aged 34, MP for Belfast East, is emerging as the dominant leader of the uncompromising school of Unionists and the real power behind the now markedly subdued Mr Paisley.

It was Mr Robinson who revealed on Thursday that the "1986 Workers' Committee" had been set up to direct Monday's protest.

Mr Robinson said the committee was made up of shop stewards and did not have politicians or paramilitary representatives as members.

The committee, however, has a two-tier structure. There is an inner committee of about a dozen shop stewards chaired by a little known DUP member of Belfast City Council, Mr Frank Leslie.

A wider grouping includes delegates of the DUP and OUP, the much smaller Popular Unionists and Progressive Unionists, both virtually one-man bands, the "loyalist" Orange Order and the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association.

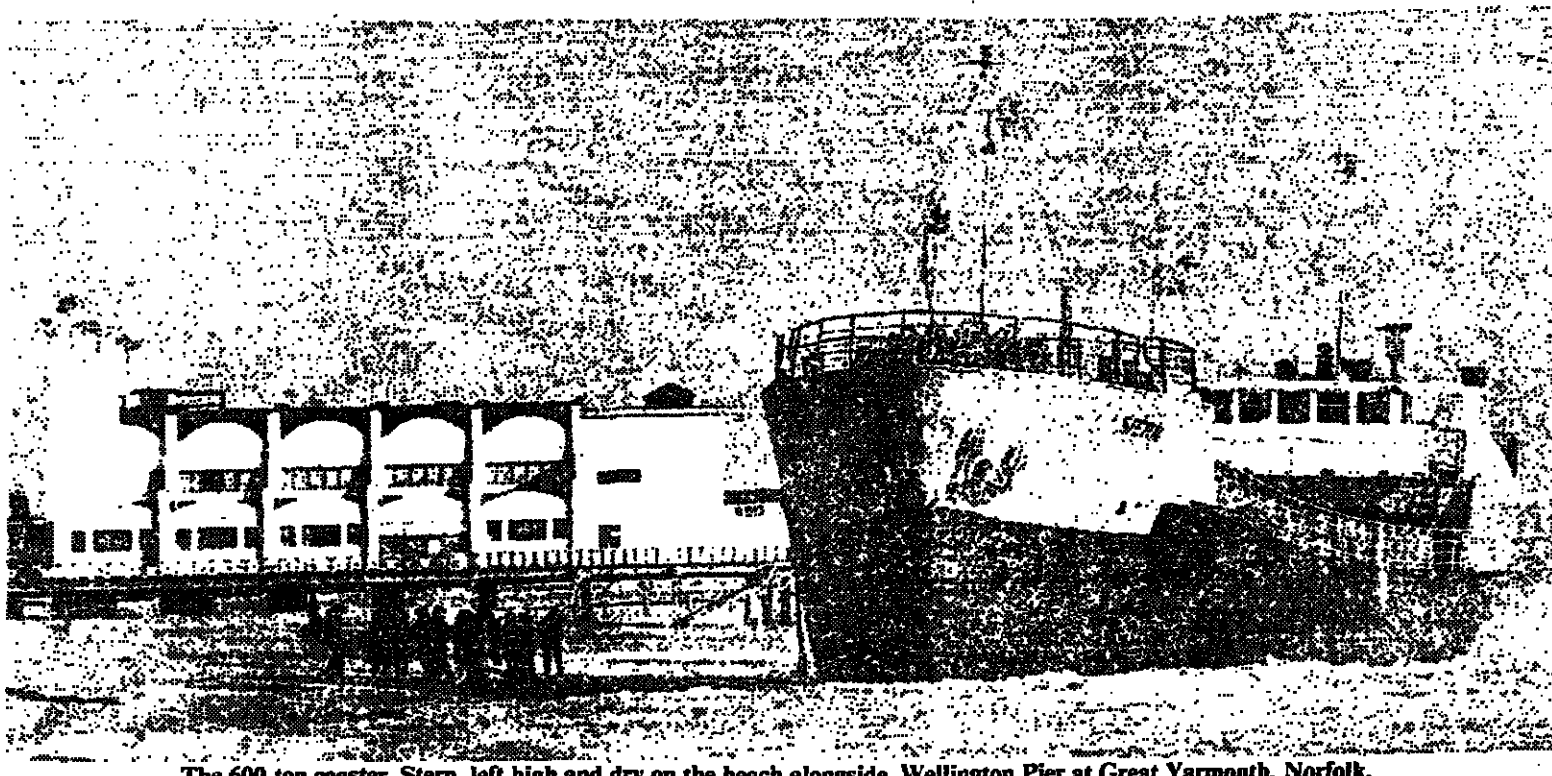
The inner committee last met on two hours at the DUP's headquarters in east Belfast on Thursday night. Mr Robinson, the Rev William McCrea, MP for Mid-Ulster, and Mr Gregory Campbell, the DUP Assemblyman from Londonderry, were also present.

Mr Robinson had told reporters that a committee spokesman would be available, but in the event only a brief uninformative statement was issued under Mr Leslie's signature and no one was put forward to answer questions.

The statement gave no details of actions planned for Monday, but merely accused employers of harassing employees who wished to support the protest and the trade unions of intimidating workers by telling them not to strike.

Mr Leslie works for the Northern Ireland Electricity Service and his committee is known to include other representatives from the almost wholly Protestant power workers. Their support in 1974 was crucial to the success of the loyalist general strike.

During the 15-day strike this hardline loyalist struggle, hold on electricity services at one time reduced Ulster to the output of a single gas turbine generator. Power cuts in Northern Ireland on Monday are certain if workers at Ballylumford, the largest power station, fulfill their pledge to strike.



The 600-ton coaster, Stern, left high and dry on the beach alongside Wellington Pier at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

TUC talks on print dispute

At talks last night between News International and the electricians' union, the EEPFU, the company agreed to hold a meeting with Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, to establish the basis for a possible further round of negotiations on the Wapping dispute.

Mr Bruce Matthews, managing director of News International, is to meet Mr Willis early next week.

But in a statement, the company complained that the "atmosphere at present being engendered by the print union leaders made talks very difficult indeed".

Mr Tom Rice, national official in charge of the printing industry for the electricians' union, has reacted angrily to allegations that members working at the new plant at Wapping, east London, were on the verge of mutiny.

He said: "I am appalled at the irresponsible misuse by the headline *Morning Star* communist newspaper of a letter from our members at Wapping."

"This was written in support of our union's attempt to secure a resumption of talks with News International to achieve a negotiated settlement of the current dispute."

He added: "It appears that the *Morning Star* are prepared to wreck any initiative which the EEPFU may take in line with their TUC agreement."

"This politically motivated intervention can only be at the expense of the print workers involved and must be deplored by all those seeking an honourable settlement."

Three men were last night being questioned by detectives at Holborn police station investigating an assault last week on Mr Christopher Warman, *The Times* property correspondent. He received neck wounds from a broken glass in a public house near the newspaper's former premises at Gray's Inn Road.

New editor for Daily Express

Mr Nicholas Lloyd, recently appointed general manager of London Post (Printers) Ltd, yesterday resigned from News International to become editor of the *Daily Express*.

Mr Lloyd, who is aged 43, was editor of the *News of the World* when it became tabloid. For the past 12 months he has been working for the company on a study of newspaper and magazine management in the United States as well as attending the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard University.

A News International spokesman said: "Mr Lloyd leaves us with our best wishes."

Sir Larry Lamb, the present editor of the *Express*, is to leave "by mutual consent" in April after completing three years in the post. *Express Newspapers* announced yesterday.

Sir Larry, aged 57, had heart surgery last year.

GEC has to count cost of Nimrod project challenge

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

GEC appears to face a high risk challenge if it is to complete the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning aircraft project after the outline agreement announced by Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Defence Procurement.

The agreement, announced on Wednesday, seems to be evidence of strong political determination that GEC should find a solution to the problems of Nimrod. But that it should also fully share the risks involved with the Ministry of Defence.

The company has been given six months to produce firm proposals for completing the project to the full performance standards demanded by the RAF.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Defence will be seeking possible alternatives such as the American A-7C Hawkeye or the Lockheed P-3C Orion. By about September, the ministry will make a choice between the competing systems.

If it is decided at that stage not to proceed with Nimrod then GEC stands to lose up to £25 million out of a maximum of £50 million which it will have spent during those six months under an agreement in which costs are split 50-50.

But if it is agreed to complete the project under a firm-price contract, the really serious risks will begin.

The risks take two forms: a higher level of performance to be achieved within two to three years than had recently been contemplated, and serious financial penalties for any failure to achieve those standards within a fixed time.

Until very recently negotiations have concentrated on achieving a minimum operating standard which in some respects was far below the standard the RAF wanted. There would then have been a second phase to achieve the full standard. That approach has now been abandoned.

Instead GEC and alternative contenders for the project will be given a list of probably about 300 performance characteristics which are needed to meet the RAF's full standard and will be asked to submit a firm price and time bid to achieve them.

These standards may not differ very much from the minimum initial operating standards which were under discussion, but in a few respects they will demand dramatically improved performance.

There will probably be a requirement for the aircraft to be able to track many more aircraft for a longer period of time, and handle the problem of over-land "clutter" much better than has so far been managed.

All this is a large technical challenge for the company handling it. GEC Avionics, and in particular for Mr Derek Jackson, the chief executive at its Borehamwood establishment, who will be leading the team of about 1,000 GEC employees, who will be involved in this development.

One of their main tasks will be to see whether a much faster and more powerful computer will be able to handle all the information generated by the aircraft.

If the company decides it has a solution to all the performance problems, and puts in a successful bid for the contract to take the project to full operational standards, it then faces financial risks if it fails to fulfil the contract on time.

Prisoners' table salt victory

By Alan Wood, Parliamentary Staff

Prisoners have succeeded in their campaign of protest against restrictions on the amount of salt in their diets.

In view of objections by inmates, prison medical authorities have been asked to re-examine the restrictions with a view to allowing more salt in the diet without damaging health.

In the Commons yesterday, Mr Alfred Dubs, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, asked in what circumstances and by what authority prisoners were required to pay for table salt.

Mr David Mellor, a junior Home Office minister, said that no prisoner was required to pay for table salt. He said that as part of a review last year of dietary "scales" for prisoners salt was made a scaled item instead of being issued without limit as in the past.

The object was to ensure that salt intake would not significantly exceed a level regarded as acceptable for maintaining good health.

Objections had been raised by some prisoners about the reduction in the amount of salt.

Report of provoked coal strike 'nonsense'

By Philip Webster

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, was said yesterday to have described as nonsense claims that he had said that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had deliberately provoked the miners' strike.

Mr MacGregor had what was described as a routine meeting yesterday morning with the Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Peter Walker, when reports about Mr MacGregor's forthcoming memoirs were raised.

Whitehall sources said that Mr MacGregor had told Mr Walker that the reports were nonsense.

Reports said that in his memoirs Mr MacGregor tells how he and the Prime Minister met in the autumn of 1983, six months before the strike began, to plan the best way of provoking a dispute.

He was also said to have alleged that the Prime Minister lost her nerve half way through the strike.

But senior ministers said yesterday that such reports were "fantastic" and "ridiculous", as were suggestions that Mrs Thatcher had lost her nerve at any time.

But Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said he was not surprised by the allegations.

Mr Kinnock, speaking on a visit to Oakdale Colliery in his South Wales constituency yesterday, said the suggestion that Mrs Thatcher and Mr MacGregor had conspired with the deliberate purpose of conducting affairs in the way they had "is not beyond the realms of possibility".

A temporary ban obtained by the National Union of Mineworkers preventing the coal board from taking steps to close Bates Colliery at Blyth, Northumberland, was lifted by a High Court judge in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Macpherson said it was impossible for the injunction to be continued because the union would not give an undertaking to meet financial losses the coal board might suffer as a result of the injunction.

The board said there was no evidence that the pit would ever make a profit.

No stamp on Irish passports

The Home Office has ordered an end to the illegal stamping of Irish Republic passports by British passport offices.

The assurance came from Sir David Hannay, Britain's Ambassador to the EEC, who said the Home Office accepted that stamping an EEC citizen's passport in another EEC country had been outlawed by the European Court of Justice.

Mr Tom Rafferty, the republic's Fine Gael Euro MP, tested the system when he flew into Heathrow airport last month. He presented his normal passport instead of his special Euro passport.

After it was stamped by an official he took the matter up with the Brussels Commission.

Man in the news

Moderate victorious in union ballot

By George Hill

The new general secretary of the National Communications Union, Mr John Golding, MP, claimed yesterday that his election by a decisive majority marked a watershed in the union's history.

The moderate candidate in the election, he secured twice as many votes as the left-wing runner-up in a ballot of the full membership of the union, formed last year by the amalgamation of unions representing clerical and engineering telecommunications workers.

"For the moderate to have such a massive majority does mean that the union is at a turning-point after having been under left-wing domination for the last three years," Mr Golding said yesterday.

The union's executive remains under left-wing control, but Mr Golding expects that new elections, to be held on an all-member ballot basis for the first time, may change its complexion before he takes over, probably in June.

"The election will be very complicated, because of the constitution of the amalgamated union, and members may not know the candidates very well."

"But if the voters know who the moderates are, then the moderates will win," he said.

In the past, executive elections have been by conference delegates wielding the whole block votes of their branches, which gave an advantage to the left.

"It has been a marked feature of the election for general secretary that moderate branches have polled heavily and left-wing ones lightly," Mr Golding said.

The new general secretary is ready to stay on as Labour member for Newcastle-under-Lyme until the next general election, although he is leaving that decision to his constituency party and the Labour Party national executive.

Mr Golding's wife, Llin, has already announced that she will be standing for selection as Labour candidate for the seat when it becomes vacant.

"I am confident that the constituency will not be neglected. I'll be giving my wife more constituency casework than now; she does most of it already," he said.

Mr Golding had a relatively tight 5.6 per cent majority at the last election, in a seat where a Conservative was runner-up and a Liberal secured 20 per cent of the votes.

In his election to the general secretaryship, Mr Golding received 41,350 votes, Mr Phil Holt 18,599 votes and Mr David Norman 13,068 votes, while two other candidates gained fewer than 3,500 votes between them. The turnout was just over 51 per cent.

Mr Golding's election will increase right-wing influence on the TUC General Council. He has been a member of Labour's national executive since 1978, and is a former junior minister and Labour whip, and chairman of the Commons select committee on employment between 1979 and 1982.

Castle's state bed fetches £20,900

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The state bed from Leeds Castle, Kent, was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £20,900 (estimate £15,000 to £20,000) to an unknown bidder.

The Queen Anne tester bed has an elaborately moulded cornice applied with eighteenth century yellow silk from which contemporary pelmets fall with scrolling edges; the backboard is also of scrolling outline.

Something so grand is rarely on the market but is also of very limited appeal because of its size: almost 13ft high and more than 8ft long.

State beds were mainly for show, to decorate the state bedroom, in case the king or queen dropped in to stay, which they rarely did. In this case, however, it had been adapted for use by a recent owner, Mr David Style, an antique dealer and decorator, and is supplied with well-matched modern silk curtains and coverlet. Christie's sold his home at Wateringbury in Kent in 1978 and the bed fetched £8,250 on that occasion. It is believed to have left Leeds Castle before the last war.

Sotheby's sale of fine English furniture totalled £815,353 with 8 per cent unsold. A number of pieces fetched unexpectedly high prices. A George II mahogany tripod table soared to £31,000 (estimate £10,000 to £15,000), the highest price in the sale.

In New York on Thursday the Americans paid unusual honours to the talent of Philip Wilson Steer, the gifted British impressionist painter, normally only sought after by British collectors.



Jane Pospate of Sotheby's sitting on the Leeds Castle state bed before yesterday's auction in London.

His colour illustration, "The morning room", decorated the cover of Sotheby's catalogue of important nineteenth century European paintings and it was bid to \$84,700 (estimate \$12,000 to \$18,000) or £36,845 by a London dealer. It is a striking 1908 portrait of a girl in a chintz chair.

Another exceptional price was the \$133,000 (estimate \$30,000 to \$40,000) or £88,590 for a portrait of an ancient turbaned Mameluk by Anne-Louis Girodet-Trioson, one of the first generation of French Romantic painters. The sale made £2 million, with 26 per cent unsold.

Compensation given to musician after arrest

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Costs and compensation of £2,386 have been paid by West Midlands police to a rock group musician who claimed false arrest after he was held for allegedly assaulting a police constable.

The case against Mr Keith Smart, aged 39, drummer with the Rockin' Berries, was dropped at a Birmingham magistrates' court last September.

The Police Complaints Authority is considering a report on the incident sent to them by the police after Mr Smart made a formal complaint.

Yesterday Mr Aidan Cotter, Mr Smart's solicitor, said Mr Smart was arrested in an incident last April involving PC Lee Moore in Corporation Street, Birmingham.

According to Mr Smart he was handcuffed and arrested for no good reason. The policeman alleged he had been kicked by Mr Smart in the course of the incident.

Independent witnesses came forward after a newspaper report appeared in the *Birmingham Evening Mail*. The charge was dropped.

Mr Cotter said the police have paid £1,500 in compensation and £886 in costs.

"Had witnesses not come forward there was a real chance Mr Smart would have been convicted," he said.

BR offer rises to 5%

British Rail increased its pay offer to 120,000 employees to a rise of 5 per cent yesterday.

In addition, an extra £1 a week would be paid to those earning less than the minimum earnings level of £97.95. For those workers, fewer than 10,000, the offer is worth 6.32 per cent.

Executives of both main unions, the National Union of Railwaymen and ASLEF, are to discuss the offer on Monday and Tuesday. They will then reach a decision jointly at a meeting of the Federation of Railway Unions on Wednesday or Thursday.

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being an ancient art form which were much valued in both Europe and the United States for exhibition and repatriation to the following countries of Iran, Iraq and Turkey.

Due to these unforeseen circumstances and the economic unfeasibility the project has been irrevocably cancelled and whilst the rugs were being held in transit in Her Majesty's Bonded Warehouses, Heathrow Airport, and others, they now have been removed and must be disposed of immediately by Auction.

Due to the vast number of pieces and value involved the auctions have been divided into sixteen separate collections thus affording everyone an equal opportunity to acquire one or more of these masterpieces.

The first session of Auction Sales will be held on Sunday 2nd March, 1986 at the following locations. All Auctions will commence at 3.00pm local time. Previews 12.00 noon prior to auction time.

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Tory MP's wife tells of £80,000 gifts to save man from the devil

A Conservative MP's wife told a court yesterday that she gave nearly £80,000 to help save a self-styled satanist, Mr Derry Mainwaring Knight, from the devil.

Mrs Susan Sainsbury, aged 47, the wife of Mr Timothy Sainsbury, MP for Hove and a member of one of Britain's wealthiest families, was clearly nervous as she sat in the witness box at Maidstone Crown Court.

Mrs Sainsbury, who was wearing a pendant crucifix, said she first heard about Mr Knight through a friend and later met the Rev John Baker at her London home.

She said: "Baker told me that Mr Knight was involved in a satanic church and wanted to commit himself to Christ. But in order to do that certain items of regalia that belonged to the church of the

satanic order had to be bought and destroyed.

"According to the rector, Mr Knight was being groomed to be the leader of this group when this regalia, which had a certain hold on him, would come into his possession and he could destroy them to break this hold."

Mrs Sainsbury gave seven cheques totalling £79,785 to Mr Baker between July 1984 and the end of February 1985.

The final payments in February of £28,000 and £20,000 went towards the purchase of a throne, which she had been told would cost about £200,000.

Mr Knight, aged 46, of Dormans Land, Surrey, denies 19 charges of obtaining £203,850 by deception.

Although Mrs Sainsbury did not meet Mr Knight, she

had spoken to him on the telephone telling him she prayed for his deliverance from the devil.

She believed in the power of prayer "passionately", and said it was a powerful influence against satanism.

Mrs Sainsbury also said, in evidence which lasted 90 minutes, that the £80,000 she gave Mr Baker for Mr Knight had "no conditions attached", and she did not expect proof of purchases.

"As long as it was being applied to buying the regalia that was all right by me. I believed all along what I was being told by Mr Baker," she said.

She agreed with Mr Michael West, QC, for Mr Knight, that satanism "was far, far more rampant than most people think in this country".



Sir Georg Solti, former principal conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, in London this week with the 24 Grammy awards he has won since 1958. The twenty-fifth came on Wednesday for his recording of Schoenberg's Moses and Aron with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Justice? Executive faces BBC discipline

The executive producer of the BBC's controversial investigative programme, *Rough Justice*, is facing disciplinary action after complaints by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, about an edition which resulted in the freeing of a man wrongly jailed for five years for burglary.

Two BBC journalists were suspended and given final warnings in January for their part in the programme about Mr Tony Mycock who was imprisoned for a burglary, which the programme proved did not take place.

But Lord Lane was critical of the methods that the *Rough Justice* reporter, Mr Martin Young, and the producer, Mr Peter Hill, used in obtaining interviews with Miss Anne Fitzpatrick, who claimed that she was the victim of the burglary.

BBC journalists now believe that Mr Elwyn Parry Jones, the series' executive producer, faces severe disciplinary action for his conduct concerning the edition, although a rough cut of the programme was also seen by Mr Michael Grade, Controller of BBC 1.

Journalists at the Lime Grove current affairs department believe that severe disciplinary action against Mr Parry Jones could result in another editorial strike which could embarrass the corporation as much as last year's 24-hour blackout over the banned *Real Lives* programme.

Disputes about dogs led to feud

Disputes over dogs started a long-standing feud between a Lloyds underwriter and his neighbour, a retired wing commander, a county court was told yesterday.

Mr John Rew, aged 46, an underwriter, of Thornhill House, Stalbridge, Dorset, told the court that he objected when Mr Paul Evans, aged 60, brought dogs to his kennels where he had housed a favourite three-legged Labrador called Bramble, which had recently died.

He said that Mr Evans, whose cottage is on the estate he owns, had no rights on his land and that the action over the dogs had increased a "frostiness" in their relationship.

Mr Rew denied that in subsequent incidents he had placed a laughing machine on the bonnet of Mr Evans's car; had to be restrained from throwing a bucket of water over Mr Evans's wife Evelyn; and knocked Mrs Evans to the ground in a dispute over a terrier.

He claimed that in the dispute over the terrier Mr Evans struck him two or three times on the side of the head, knocking off his glasses and causing him to fall. "I was bleeding quite heavily", he said.

Mr Rew was continuing his evidence on the third day of a hearing at Yeovil County Court, sitting at Wincanton.

Mr Evans is asking the court to consider jailing Mr Rew for allegedly breaching a magistrates' court order, made last year, prohibiting him from molesting or assaulting Mr Evans's family.

Cross-examined by Mr Simon Russen, for Mr Evans, about evidence he gave yesterday, Mr Rew denied that he was the first to suggest that his neighbours might be bought out. It had come out in discussions with his solicitors.

The hearing continues.

Musicians' £1/4m damages

Vangelis, the composer whose hits include the theme music of the film *Chariots of Fire*, and two musicians were awarded £250,000 damages yesterday, with interest and costs, by the High Court against a record company which illegally released some of their early work.

The damages were against Pye Record Sales which, in an earlier hearing, had consented to judgement being entered against it for breach of copyright.

Mr Robin Jacob, QC, for the musicians, told the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, that his clients recorded several pieces of music in the early 1970s which Vangelis regarded as "inferior".

Since then Vangelis, of Queensgate, Kensington, south-west London, had won international acclaim, Mr Jacob said.

In 1971 Vangelis took part in an experimental recording session with two musicians, Brian Odgers and Tony Oxley. Mr Jacob said that Vangelis decided not to release any of that music, but in 1978 Pye got hold of forged documents of title and records of the works started appearing in Britain and in Europe.

Alan Lancaster, a member of the Status Quo pop group, launched a High Court attempt yesterday to stop the other two members of the group from "cashing in on their most valuable asset" without him.

Francis Rossi, lead guitarist, and Rick Parfitt are planning to release an album and make public appearances without Mr Lancaster, the bass player, and want to use the name Status Quo.

After a disagreement over the recording of the new album, Mr Rossi and Mr Parfitt went ahead without Mr Lancaster. They claimed that he had withdrawn from the trio.

The name Status Quo assures sales and success, Mr Kevin Garnett, for Mr Lancaster, told the court. Mr Lancaster had no intention of being dismissed by the others. The hearing continues today.

George Michael has confirmed that his duo Wham! is to disband after a farewell concert at Wembley, London, this summer.

Jail for constable in crash

A policeman who crashed into another car virtually demolishing it and fatally injuring the driver was sent to prison for two years yesterday.

Police Constable Paul Scanlon, aged 24, resigned from the West Yorkshire force on Thursday.

He had drunk almost two and a half times more than the legal limit when the accident happened at Caton, near Lancaster, on May 9 last year, Preston Crown Court was told.

Scanlon, a bachelor, of Rywood Drive, West Bowling, Bradford, pleaded guilty to causing death by reckless driving.

Keeper acquitted over illegal traps

A North Yorkshire gamekeeper was acquitted yesterday on charges of causing unnecessary suffering to a cat and using an illegal trap.

In Leyburn Magistrates' Court, James Wood, aged 37, of Church View, Askrigg, Wensleydale, denied any knowledge of the trap.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Hambly and his wife, Sigrid, they were wild partridges, he set them free. They were later found to have been escaped birds from the pen.

Mr John Winch, for the defence, said that anyone who disliked Mr Wood could have set the trap to incriminate the gamekeeper.

Royal patron

The Princess of Wales is to become patron of the British Lung Foundation, Dr Malcolm Green, chairman of the charity, which was launched last year, said yesterday.

Arthritis drugs 'may kill'

Some drugs used in the treatment of arthritis may be killing as many as 200 old people every year.

The warning comes after a study of all patients admitted to two Nottingham hospitals, with bleeding peptic ulcers during a two-year period.

Doctors in the city's University Hospital, writing in the latest issue of *The Lancet*, say they found a "strong association" between the presence of such ulcers in patients aged over 60 and the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs prescribed for osteoarthritis.

One of 290 patients with bleeding ulcers in that age group, more than 60 cases were probably caused by the drug treatment, the doctors say.

Doctors point out, however, that in spite of the possible side-effects, the drugs are greatly beneficial in controlling a disabling and distressing ailment.

Nagging sister was killed

A shy, gentle man killed his sister, a religious fanatic, after enduring 20 years of nagging, Sir James Miskin, QC, Recorder of London, was told at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Daniel O'Sullivan never answered back until his self-control finally snapped one August morning, Mrs Barbara Mills, for the prosecution, said. He pushed his sister, Bridget, aged 63, to the ground and put his foot on her throat, killing her.

O'Sullivan, aged 56, of Sandicambe Road, Richmond, admitted manslaughter and was ordered to be detained under the Mental Health Act.

Mrs Mills said that O'Sullivan, a schizophrenic, had been a gardener at Kew for nearly 20 years and had lived with sister, who was house-proud and a fanatical Roman Catholic.

"She thought he was not sufficiently interested in religion. Matters came to a head when he was ill and Bridget nagged him about housework, handing him a note telling him to move and live elsewhere."

Mr Robin Grey, QC, for the defence, said: "This tragedy was brought about as the result of a clash of two abnormal personalities."

"It is remarkable that in the 20 years he lived with her there had not been any arguments."

Bailiffs visit dealer's home

Bailiffs yesterday removed furniture, fittings and carpets from the home of Mr Harvey Michael Ross, a bullion dealer, who is believed to be in Israel.

Mr Ross, aged 38, of Alwoodley, Leeds, is due to appear in the High Court sitting at Leeds on Monday to answer a bankruptcy petition and six county court orders.

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Social worker jailed for sexual offences

A social worker who lured young boys in his care into his bedroom to commit sexual acts was jailed yesterday for eight years.

Kenneth Scott, aged 34, of Harrison Close, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, who was in charge of a county council care home, admitted five offences of gross indecency with three boys aged between 12 and 16.

The judge, Mr Justice Rose, said Scott "had committed horrifying offences and had abused his position of trust" at the home in Market Harborough, which is now closed.

He said: "It is difficult to think of more outrageous and despicable behaviour from someone who is in charge of a children's home."

Mr Geoffrey Solomons, for the prosecution told Leicester Crown Court that Scott repeatedly lured the boys into his room and showed them pornographic books and films.

Scott paid them money and bought them clothes to com-

Boxing comeback is counted out

The British Boxing Board of Control yesterday washed its hands of a comeback fight planned by Jim Wilde, a former world heavyweight champion. He hopes to display his skills before 10,000 people at the Swansea City Football Ground.

Mr Wilde, who last fought 40 years ago, is now aged 70 and his opponent, Mr Colin Davis, is aged 63.

The former professional fighter, who lost to Tommy Farr, accepted the challenge after Mr Davies offered to go five rounds with anyone over the age of 60.

Mr Davies, of Derwen-fawr, Swansea, said he made his

Hull jobs loss

Three hundred jobs will be lost, from a staff of 800, and there will be fewer buses, under the provisions of a Bill to privatize the transport department at Hull.

Their planned encounter was condemned by Mr Ray Clarke, general secretary of the boxing board. "I think it is pathetic and diabolical and anyone who has anything to do with it needs their heads examined. In the fight game 34 is considered old," he said.

The board's chief medical officer, Dr Adrian Whiteson, said the men could be risking their lives. "A heavy blow could result in a cerebral haemorrhage or permanent brain damage," he said.

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Plastic bullets a better last resort in riots than Army, Hurd says

By Craig Seton

Using plastic bullets against rioters was better than police chiefs having to call in soldiers armed with live ammunition as a last resort, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Hurd returned to Handsworth in Birmingham, where two people died in riots last September, to deliver his warning that chief constables must have plastic bullets available in extreme cases where lives were at risk.

On his last tour of Handsworth, the day after the worst of last year's rioting, the Home Secretary was pelted with stones and bottles and had to flee from the area under police protection, but yesterday's visit was peaceful.

He told journalists that in extreme cases, such as that at Tottenham when a shotgun was used against police, it was probably better that the police should have plastic bullets than that their only resort was to call in the Army with live ammunition.

"When a chief officer thinks that for the protection of his

men or citizens he needs them, rather than to call in the Army with live ammunition, then I think he should have them.

"But, that is as a last resort, absolutely defensive and, it comes when and if everything else has failed", Mr Hurd said.

"But, the great thing is to have that last resort never happening," he added.

Mr Hurd has already promised Mr Geoffrey Dear, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, that he can have plastic bullets if his Labour-controlled police committee continues to withhold permission.

The chief constable has said that plastic bullets would have been justified and effective during the Handsworth riots, a claim rejected this week in a report on the disturbances by Mr Julius Silverman, a barrister and former Labour MP.

Mr Hurd said yesterday that he hoped local police authorities would make it possible for chief constables to have plastic bullets for the safety of their men and the public.

"If they do not, I believe I

have to, I am not prepared to see the police helpless under the kind of attack they endured in Tottenham.

Asked if he feared more riots this summer, the Home Secretary said he hoped that good sense would show people who might be tempted that rioting harmed only themselves and their community.

He said another report into the riots by five black people, which had dubbed Birmingham as a capital of racism, had not been worth the effort and he added:

"I am slightly tired of the approach that it is all because of racism on the part of the police, just as I get slightly weary of police officers saying they are asked to police black communities more lightly than white."

The Home Secretary's tour began at a Handsworth employment scheme where traders and community leaders complained about high unemployment and delays in paying compensation for the £16 million of damage caused by the riots.

Powell's attack on Ulster accord

By George Hill

The Anglo-Irish agreement and the acceptance of European courts' jurisdiction were helping to bring the institution of Parliament more fundamentally into question than perhaps ever before, Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist MP for Down South, said yesterday.

Speaking two days after the European Court of Justice upheld a woman's plea against having to retire early because of her sex, he said that Parliament was no longer regarded as the unique and ultimate guarantor of Britons' rights.

"The House of Commons is not even asked for its permission when the Government grants to individual citizens the right to ask a foreign court, the European Court of Human Rights, to overturn not merely the judgements of the Queen's courts, but the Acts of her Parliament as being incompatible with the rights, if not of a Briton, at any rate of a human being (whatever that may be)", Mr Powell said.

Addressing a St David's Day dinner in London, Mr Powell accused the Government of applying different standards to Northern Ireland and Wales, another part of the United Kingdom where a minority wished to withdraw from the parliamentary union.

Wales's role as a full participant in the United Kingdom was secure, he said, but the Hillsborough agreement was the climax of a policy by the British state "to work with secrecy and determination to eject" Northern Ireland.

It was an unprecedented agreement that directly repudiated the principle that it was Parliament which "affords to all minorities every protection and status".



Mrs Simone Duvalier, the mother of Haiti's former dictator, arriving in Paris for medical treatment.

Haiti wants to lay hands on Duvalier

Port-au-Prince (Reuter) - Haiti has announced that it will press for the extradition of Mr Jean-Claude Duvalier, the former dictator who left on February 7 for exile. A communiqué from the Justice Minister, Mr Gérard Gourgue, said Mr Duvalier would soon be the subject of an extradition request.

The communiqué, read on television on Thursday night, added that the five-man Government Council, which has been running Haiti since the departure of Mr Duvalier, would also seek the extradition of the former police chief, Mr Albert Pierre, from exile in Brazil.

The statement, issued after two days of violence and looting, responded to growing public pressure for action against leaders and officials of the former dictatorship. According to diplomats the council showed no inclination in its first two weeks to take action against Mr Duvalier and his aides.

Haitians suspected of crimes committed during the dictatorship would not be allowed to leave, the statement said.

On Sunday, the Government allowed Mr Pierre, who won a reputation for brutality in his three years as police chief, to leave for Brazil. He was given an amnesty at the airport, a procedure repeated a day later for the former secret police chief, Mr Luc Désir. But the attempt to let him go led to violence at the airport, with troops firing into the air and using tear gas against several hundred demonstrators.

The communiqué said the state would seize the property of people "denounced by public clamour", an apparent reference to the Duvalier militia, the Toussaints Movement.

In another move to defuse mounting public criticism of the Government, the council announced reductions in the price of sugar, flour and petrol and reiterated that it was laying the groundwork to establish democracy. There would be general elections after a constituent assembly had drafted a constitution and electoral laws. No timetable was given.

Mr Duvalier is still in France. The French Government has been unable to find another country willing to take him.

Mr Duvalier's 77-year-old mother, Mrs Simone Duvalier, arrived in Paris from the Alpine resort hotel where the former dictator has been staying with his family since arriving in France (Reuter reports).

Mrs Duvalier said she was ill and had left the resort of Talloires to seek medical help in the French capital. She declined to comment on her son's plans.

Referendum approval Pragmatic Danes look to warmer links with EEC

From Christopher Foflett, Copenhagen

The Danish Government, having won by a fairly comfortable majority its referendum on EEC reforms, has called for a domestic political truce on the issue and urged a spirit of co-operation to help to mend relations with Brussels.

Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Foreign Minister, greeted the result as a "clear-cut endorsement" of the reforms and a signal to the outside world that Danish membership of the EEC was beyond question.

But the Danes voted grudgingly for the reforms on Thursday, from a sense of pragmatism rather than from any great enthusiasm for Europe.

The vote in favour of the so-called Luxembourg package of changes to the Treaty of Rome was 56.2 per cent, with 43.8 per cent against. Turnout was put at 74.8 per cent of the country's 3.8 million electorate.

Although a quarter of the voters stayed away, the result is seen as a solid victory for the ruling centre-right minority government and its pro-European policies.

But the size of the "no" vote - which was much greater than expected - indicates that Danes remain highly suspicious about their membership of the EEC. In 1972 the vote to join was 63 per cent for and 37 per cent against.

Virtually all the political parties have said they will respect the result and the reforms are now expected to be ratified by Parliament before Easter.

Thursday's referendum, the eleventh in Danish history, was called by the Government after a left-wing parliamentary majority, led by the powerful but divided Social Democrats, rejected the proposed EEC reforms on the grounds that they threatened Danish national sovereignty.

Opposition parties expressed satisfaction with the high percentage of voters who expressed their support for the package but not been as high as the opinion polls had predicted.

The Danish Foreign Minister left for The Hague for the signing last night of the Luxembourg reform package.

Brewers' fears on single duty

Fears that EEC plans to harmonize taxation on alcoholic drinks could reduce the wide choice available to British beer-drinkers are raised in a report by MPs, published yesterday.

The Commons Select Committee on European Legislation says that the plans raise questions of political importance.

Securing agreement on a consistent relationship between tax on beers, wines and spirits has proved difficult.

In evidence to the committee the Brewers' Society pointed out that the British market "is unique in the wide range of beers of different strengths on sale", and said it feared that a single rate of duty would lead to "the disappearance or modification of many popular existing brands".

Teach report from the Select Committee on European Legislation (Stationery Office, £3.70).

Inquests highlight plight of aged

The plight of old people living alone through the severe winter was highlighted yesterday when inquests were held into the deaths of four hypothermia victims.

Mr John Budd, the Blackpool Coroner, was told that Mrs Edith Davies, aged 83, a widow, had only a two-bar electric fire to provide heating in her bungalow in Oldwater Avenue, Thornton, near Blackpool.

She could only one bar of the fire, according to neighbours who found her, fully clothed, collapsed on a bed on February 13.

Mr Budd recorded an accidental death verdict on her, on Mrs Amy Bailey, aged 82, of Newhouse Road, Blackpool, who died on February 15, and on Mr Jack Harrison, aged 89, of Barnmouth Avenue, Blackpool, who died on February 7.

Mr Harrison, a widower, collapsed behind the front door and lay for a considerable time in freezing conditions. His temperature had dropped 17 degrees below normal when the police broke in and found him.

Mrs Bailey, a widow, was found sitting in a chair at her home where she lived alone.

The house was always cold and the only form of heating was a gas fire.

Mr Budd said many elderly people seemed to be frightened to turn on heating because of the high cost.

In Sheffield, the coroner, Dr Stefan Popper, was told that Mrs May Oates, aged 84, a widow, of Cookson Close, Parson Cross, Sheffield, had a small stroke in bed and fell to the floor.

Dr Christopher Smith, a pathologist, said she might well have recovered from the stroke, but it left her unable to call for help or get back to the warmth of her bed.

The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.

No action on keel sale bid

No further action is to be taken against the man who allegedly tried to sell the keel design of Britain's America's Cup entry for £18,000, police said yesterday.

Anthony John Brown, aged 27, of Port Isaac, Cornwall, had been allowed police bail on December 1 after the failure of the sale to a New York-based syndicate.

Welsh march to dramatize a 'forgotten strike'

From Tim Jones Cardiff

More than 1,000 people will march through a North Wales town today to revive public interest in what has become the forgotten strike.

The dispute, between slate workers and two brothers and their brother-in-law who own three quarries in Blaenau Ffestiniog, has been going on since last August.

It has bitterly divided the small Welsh-speaking community in Gwynedd and turned former friends into

enemies. Families who worship together in the chapels no longer speak to each other in the street.

The dispute began when workers at one of the quarries refused to accept new work practices, which they claimed would reduce their wages from £170 to £140 a week.

One of the strikers, Mr Barry Williams, said yesterday: "We were perfectly willing to increase production from 16,000 to 21,000 slates a week without any extra pay.

"But we were opposed to

doing so for less money. We did not ask for nor expect any increase in wages, but it seemed very hard to pay us less for more work."

Since the strike began, some of the men have drifted back to work and they are now summoned by their former colleagues.

Mr Williams's wife, Julie, said: "We have three young children and like other families are suffering real hardship.

"Unpaid bills are mounting and there is no money for any small luxuries. But we are

determined to stand by our men."

Trade unionists, and in particular the South Wales miners, are assisting the families with cash and food parcels.

The quarry men hope that a meeting arranged for tomorrow under the auspices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service will help to find a compromise that could end the strike.

No one from the three companies was available yesterday for comment.

Spain cuts price of petrol

From Our Own Correspondent Madrid

The Spanish Government has cut the price of petrol for the second time in three months as the first of a series of measures to take advantage of falling world oil prices and reactivate the economy.

Other measures due to be implemented in the next few weeks aim to stimulate investment and help Spanish firms face competition from EEC countries.

The petrol cuts are obviously designed to put the voters in a favourable mood when they vote in 12 days' time on whether Spain stays in Nato. The other measures will take effect gradually.

Meanwhile the Government allowed a parliamentary debate on the Nato issue. The Prime Minister, Señor Felipe González, responding to criticism by the Opposition and the media that the count might be rigged, acted quickly to reverse the petulant decision of his own party's leadership on Tuesday to bar all debates until after the referendum.

Señor Manuel Fraga, the right-wing opposition leader, answering the Prime Minister's denial that the ruling party was stifling parliamentary debate, said: "It is of the greatest importance that our national problems should be tackled in Parliament.

"In Britain this happens even in the middle of a war."

Season of goodwill in Poland

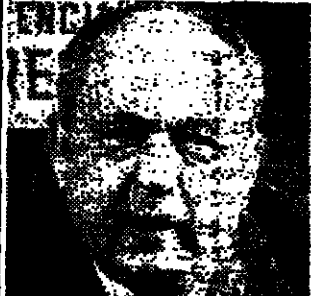
From Roger Boyes Warsaw

The special relations between the Polish leadership and the Roman Catholic Church are showing in anticipation of a new pilgrimage by the Pope to his homeland.

Although the Government has not yet issued a formal invitation, the Pope is expected to attend an important Eucharistic conference in Poland in June next year.

At the time of his second trip to Poland in 1983 - the first, in 1979, helped to spawn the Solidarity movement - the authorities were nervous that it would trigger unrest, revive the opposition, or make the Church more militant. But the Government survived and is therefore more confident in the face of a third pilgrimage.

The question is how both sides should profit from the negotiations. The Church knows it can at last gain official agreement on establishing a fund to funnel mil-



Professor Lopatka: deal on Wales slander charges.

PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 28 1986

Tobacco sponsorship defended

THE ARTS

It was up to arts organizations to decide whether to accept tobacco sponsorship or not, Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said in a debate on business sponsorship of the arts in which backbench MPs from all parties had criticized the tobacco sponsorship.

It must be for them to decide (he said) whether they feel it is right or wrong to invite tobacco companies to sponsor in the field of arts.

He told Mr Clement Freud (North East Cambridgeshire, I) who condemned an industry geared to killing and causing life, and particularly when such contributions were matched by Government money, that he did not feel it was wrong because he allowed it to happen in his present scheme - to facilitate the prospect of tobacco companies' contribution being matched.

He told MPs who urged extended tax concessions in the Budget for businesses donating to the charities and the arts that he noted their remarks with care and would convey them to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Of course he was keen to see the arts growing by attracting additional private funding in line with the 1983 manifesto commitment to examine ways of using the tax system to encourage further growth in the arts.

Sir William van Straubenzee (Wokingham, C), opening the debate, said tobacco companies should be just as acceptable as that from any other source.

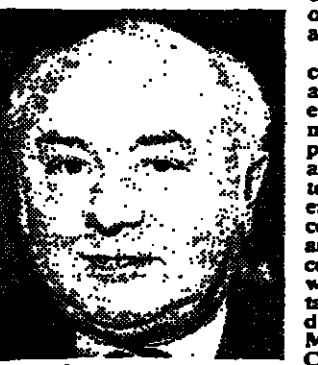
There was anxiety about the source of some sponsorships but he hoped there would not be argument that a separate judgement should be formed over the source of such money.

Surely (he said) the test should be: is the activity in which the commercial company or partnership concerned is engaged, legal or not? I know there is some unease about sponsorship by

tobacco companies, but if one is going to form these moral judgements about that particular activity it should be remembered there are other activities which are equally carried out which carry excess, are very harmful such as eating sweets and over eating generally.

With the Budget in prospect he hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would find it possible to propose that contributions made by individuals or corporate bodies to charitable objectives could be fully tax deductible. That would unless a surprisingly large source of funds.

There was an element of hysteria about the admission charges for some museums and



Van Straubenzee: Appeal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

made them unacceptable as arts funders.

Much business sponsorship was very specifically targeted towards high culture and prestige events such as opera, ballet and the Royal Opera House. It was relatively easy for such events to get business funding, but the small seeded areas with not much kudos attached had great difficulties. Most companies avoided the avant garde and innovative such as ethnic and community arts.

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C) said he saw no compelling reason why the Government should not look favourably on the proposal that tobacco companies should obtain relief from corporation tax and other taxes on one-off donations to the arts and charities.

This would be a great encouragement to the charities and to the arts, it would encourage businesses to do more in support of them, and by promoting and expanding the arts in this country would help to improve the high standard of excellence still further, encouraging an increase in tourism and visitors who generated income and employment and would repay the Government in tax yield more than the relief directly given.

Mr Clement Freud (North East Cambridgeshire, I) said, on tobacco sponsorship, that he had always believed that a company or industry geared to killing should not be allowed also to enhance life.

One was basically unhappy to have the purveyors of death enhance the arts of this country, but one was substantially unhappy when such contributions were matched by Government money. It was quite appalling the youth of this country were now led to believe they could not play cricket decently unless they smoked Benson and Hedges or that part parcel of driving racing cars was the inhalation of Marlboro.

Mr Roger Sims (Chislehurst, C) said he felt less strongly about tobacco sponsorship of art than he did about sport. He hoped eventually for a complete removal of advertising and

promotion of tobacco products together. Meanwhile they must start with sport and perhaps art would be the next step.

Mr Norman Bachman, Opposition spokesman on the arts, said while welcoming the development of business sponsorship of the arts it could not be regarded as a substitute for proper public funding and it was impossible not to express deep concern about what was happening in relation to funding at both central and local government level.

The trend for museums to introduce admission charges was to be deplored, particularly those in South Kensington which were largely educational establishments. Previously it had been possible for a family to visit the Natural History Museum, the V&A, but a triple charge would make that impossible for many.

Mr Luce, replying to the debate, said the Government is not to be deprived, particularly those in South Kensington which were largely educational establishments. Previously it had been possible for a family to visit the Natural History Museum and the V&A, but a triple charge would make that impossible for many.

The future health of the arts depended on plurality of funding, obtaining funds from a variety of sources. There were those who said the arts were in dire straits, a state of constant crisis, and those who believed in a state of gloom and doom and despondency. Even the word armageddon was used. This was absolute nonsense.

Of course abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties had caused some uncertainty over the transitional period, but the abolition problems were being resolved by the arts council in conjunction with the local authorities. The real state of the arts was actually very healthy. Tobacco sponsorship was not based on monolithic state support but on diverse funding.

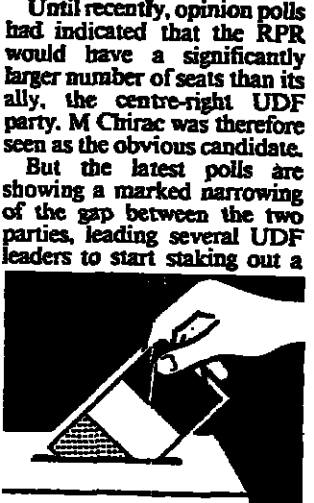
Chirac sets terms to govern

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Until recently, opinion polls had indicated that the RPR would have a significantly larger number of seats than its ally, the centre-right UDF party. M Chirac was therefore seen as the obvious candidate. But the latest polls are showing a marked narrowing of the gap between the two parties, leading several UDF leaders to start staking out a claim for one of their own members as the next Prime Minister.

Under the constitution M Mitterrand has the power to appoint whoever he pleases, and there is some speculation that he may yet decide to look behind the official party leaders and appoint a moderate, such as M Jacques Chaban Delmas, the former Gaullist Prime Minister, or Mme Simone Veil, a former minister under President Giscard d'Estaing.

Much will depend on the size of the expected right-wing victory on March 16. If the UDF-RPR alliance fails to get the absolute majority it is seeking - and the latest polls



M Jacques Chirac, the man most hotly tipped as France's next Prime Minister in the event of a right-wing election victory on March 16.

indicate that it could be touch-and-go - or it could be a very small majority, M Mitterrand's margin for manoeuvre will be that much greater.

Meanwhile, the Socialists seem bent on discrediting M Chirac as a possible Prime Minister. M Laurent Fabius, the present Prime Minister, said the RPR leader "appears to have forgotten that he has already been Prime Minister, and that he was one of the most mediocre Prime Ministers ever known".

No one had the right to dictate conditions to the President regarding his choice of Prime Minister, he said.

Mme Veil, asked about her own prospects, said that whoever was chosen must come from the largest victorious party in the new Parliament. She was astonished to hear M Fabius say that the President could choose whom he wished.

Topless ban: The right-wing weekly Minute was on sale normally here yesterday, despite a court injunction against its current issue, sought by M Fabius, because its front cover has a topless picture of his wife, Francoise, sunning herself on a beach.

The editor, M Jean-Claude Godeau, who claims that he was never advised of the court ban, risks paying damages to M Fabius and his wife totalling 15 million francs.

A thoroughly English welcome for Queen

From Stephen Taylor Christchurch

The most English of New Zealand cities laid on a thoroughly English welcome yesterday for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Looking happier and more relaxed than at any stage so far on this incident-filled visit, the royal couple went on a walkabout through Christ-

church city centre, where about 8,000 people had clustered as the cathedral bells pealed out a welcome.

The crowd was the biggest spontaneous gathering of the tour and seemingly the most enthusiastic.

The route from the airport, where the Queen arrived from Wellington and Nelson, took her past the willow-lined banks of the River Avon and

more cheering and flag-waving crowds.

A demonstration by fewer than 10 people along the route again drew attention to the Treaty of Waitangi, but there were no incidents.

In Wellington, the Maori activist, Mr Dun Mibaka, and his wife were released on bail after appearing in the District Court, having been held overnight in custody. Both were

charged with dangerous driving as a result of an incident near the royal motorcade on Thursday.

With the New Zealand leg of the tour drawing to a close, to be followed by Australia, members of the royal household are acknowledging that the size of crowds turning out to see the Queen have generally been smaller than on any of the seven previous visits here.

Current Brazil's life... ACTION OF BAN... CURRENT LI...

New currency launches Brazil's life or death battle against inflation

Rio de Janeiro (AP) — President Sarney of Brazil, declaring a "war of life and death against inflation", yesterday announced sweeping economic changes that include a new currency, the cruzado, to replace the cruzeiro. A cruzado is worth 1,000 cruzeiros, about 5p.

Senhor Sarney decreed a total price freeze and an end to automatic cost-of-living corrections, known as indexing. Shopkeepers who raise prices and businessmen and landlords who index rates may be jailed, the President said.

The Government said inflation had reached an annual rate of 255 per cent, the worst in Brazil's history. President Sarney called inflation "public enemy number one", and said it was "stealing bread from Brazilians' mouths."

Workers will get pay rises today, but thereafter cost-of-living raises will be determined by the Government according to a so-called flexible scale. Previously there were automatic cost-of-living increases twice a year.

The minimum wage increases today to the equivalent of about £39 a month, from the current £29, but then it is to be frozen for a year.

The President also eliminated the federal treasury bond unit used as the basis for indexing. The bond was known locally by its Portuguese initials, ORTN. A new unit, OTN, has been created, with its value frozen for a year at 106.4 cruzeiros, or just over £5.

Rents and mortgages have been frozen at current levels for a year. Previously they were increased every six months, and in some cases

every three months, in accordance with inflation.

Government-guaranteed savings and loan accounts, the main form of savings for tens of millions of Brazilians, will now pay inflation correction every three months, instead of monthly as before. This was the only exception to the general year-long freeze on indexing. The Finance Minister, Senhor Dilson Funaro, said the rights of individual savers would be guaranteed.

The daily devaluation of the cruzeiro-cruzado relative to the US dollar has been stopped. The Government will in future determine when, and by how much, the exchange rate will change. The rate yesterday was 13.84 cruzeiros to the dollar.

All banks were ordered to close yesterday by Government decree. They are to reopen on Monday.

Senhor Sarney, speaking live on radio and television from Brasilia, the capital, said yesterday's measures were the result of "a serious and difficult decision". He denied they were copies of measures taken by any other country, a reference to press speculation that Brazil was following the anti-inflation policies adopted last year by neighbouring Argentina.

Brazil's monthly inflation rate is now regarded as among the highest in the world: 16 per cent in January and 14.3 per cent in February. Argentina has reduced its rate to about 5 per cent, and Bolivia has achieved similar results. Senhor Sarney said the new economic measures would not interfere with economic growth, estimated in 1985 at 8 per cent, the best since the 1970s.

● LIMA: The Peruvian Government has indefinitely postponed an IMF mission that was expected to arrive here on Monday to review the economy, a presidential palace spokesman announced. He said the visit was unnecessary (Reuter reports).

Under an IMF provision known as Article Four, missions conduct annual economic reviews of the fund's 149 member states. "When we studied Article Four, we noted it did not mean that a mission had to come here," a Government finance official said. "We saw we could offer information the Fund wanted and could send it to them."

The mission had planned to review the state of the economy, studying statistics at the Central Bank and at ministries before drafting a report.

President Garcia has criticized colonial-style policies in Latin America, and his Government stopped payments on its debt to the fund in August. Peru must clear \$72 million (£48.6 million) in arrears by April 14 or risk losing borrowing rights.



President Sarney: growth will be unaffected.

Cairo's sermons fail to convince

From Robert Fisk
Cairo

At the Al-Azhar mosque in Cairo, one of the most venerable of the country's Islamic teaching institutions, the faithful were urged yesterday to protect their Muslim neighbours and the unity of the Muslim state.

The sheiks of Al-Azhar are government appointed and there was little doubt as to what the message was supposed to mean: that Egyptians should go on supporting President Mubarak and ignore those who claim that it is also an Islamic duty to retort the Mubarak regime.

Outside the 1,000-year-old mosque and university the plainclothes security police, puffing on their cigarettes at the wheels of battered cars, had no need to watch for signs of sedition.

Such sermons, however, are fast becoming irrelevant in Egypt, where the collapsing economy, the lack of direction within the Government, and the frustration of the millions of Cairo's poor point towards only further insurrection and instability.

Mr Mubarak is not a bad man; his opponents do not try to revile him in the way they cursed Sadat — for corruption and nepotism. But his problems now appear insoluble and the features of the President that still hang on the advertisement hoardings along Giza Street reflect failure and weakness rather than post-Sadat stability.

Hardly a month now goes by without serious civil disturbances in Egypt. If students are not rioting over America's seizure of an Egyptian airliner carrying the Achille Lauro hijackers, cotton workers are striking for pay increases at Mahalla el-Kobra.

No sooner had Mr Mubarak suppressed the disturbances in the Nile delta, that followed the death in prison of the Egyptian policeman who murdered seven Israelis in Sinai, than the security police themselves mutinied.

As a result, the social fabric of the country can now only be held together by the one pivotal force which can ensure internal security: the Army. The dismissal of Mr Mubarak's unpopular Interior Minister, Mr Ahmed Rushdi, has come two years too late for most Egyptians and there are growing rumours that senior army officers now doubt Mr



A group of conscripts of the Egyptian security police under army guard in a Cairo suburb after the rioting that left at least 36 dead and 300 wounded earlier in the week.

Egypt's oil revenues have fallen by 50 per cent in only a year and the country's tourist industry was falling even before the security police assault on two of the luxury hotels at the Pyramids; the Achille Lauro affair had taken care of that.

With little hope that the US Congress will increase aid, a cut in food subsidies for bread, sugar and flour can be only a month or two away; and it was a cut in bread subsidies that caused the huge food riots that almost overthrew the Sadat regime in 1977.

Mubarak's ability to appoint credible ministers.

More and more people are talking of Field Marshal Muhammad Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala, the Minister of Defence and Deputy Prime Minister, as a future president; which would effectively mean rule by the Army.

These were men who were brought up in traditional Muslim villages and who are now most influenced by the Islamic fundamentalism that has taken root among Egypt's poor.

The results of all this may soon be manifest. Mr Mubarak will no doubt try to soldier on, but the economic forces against him — not to mention the internal dissent — are almost overwhelming.

This is the real significance of the mutiny by Mr Rushdi's ill-paid and poorly-treated conscripts this week. Treated with near-contempt by their middle-class officers, the thousands of black-uniformed security police simply vented their anger on the most conspicuous symbols of the wealth they were denied — the two large tourist hotels outside the gates of their camp at Giza.

But it is also significant that the conscripts came largely from rural areas of Egypt — Mr Rushdi had effectively given the security of Cairo to dissatisfied but armed members of peasant families.

Senate votes to allow live TV

Washington (Reuter) — The US Senate has voted to allow television broadcasts, despite fears that its lengthy debates might put the country to sleep.

After years of worrying about how they will look, senators finally voted 67-21 to lift the curtain on "the world's most exclusive club" for a 45-day test of live coverage from June 1.

Peace girl check denied

Boston (UPI) — The FBI denies investigating Samantha Smith, the Maine schoolgirl who became a peace ambassador after she wrote to President Andropov.

But it is keeping secret 11 pages of material containing her name because other people are involved, *The Boston Herald* reported.

Train kills 31

Delhi (Reuter) — At least 31 people died and about 100 were injured when an express train ploughed into a crowd watching a fireworks display, as part of a religious festival north of Cochin, southern Kerala state.

Trial delay

Detroit (Reuter) — Mr John DeLorean's trial on charges of defrauding investors in his bankrupt sports car company has been postponed to September 8.

Safe Brie

Paris (AFP) — French cheeses are now covered by guarantees of safety, the French Agriculture Ministry said, responding to US warnings that some shipments contained harmful bacteria.

Warder's fury

Belgrade (Reuter) — A Yugoslav prison warder who recently had treatment at a psychiatric clinic has been arrested after the random shooting death of eight people near Doboj, police said.

Faulty line

Cleveland (Heights) Ohio, (Reuter) — A man is in jail after the phone number he dialed to buy drugs turned out to be a police hot line. He was arrested when he tried to close an \$18,000 drug deal.

Explosive love

Nicosia (Reuter) — A car explosion which killed a Cypriot couple on a mountain road near a secret British radar station was probably a lovers' suicide pact, police said.

Go-ahead for cruise by Dutch

From Robert Schull
Amsterdam

The Dutch Lower House of Parliament has finally approved the deployment of 48 US cruise missiles in The Netherlands by the end of 1988.

Although six left-wing Christian Democrat MPs voted with the socialist Opposition on Thursday against ratification of the deployment treaty with the United States, the ruling centre-right coalition of Christian Democrats and Liberals had a majority with the support of three small right-wing parties.

The house rejected an opposition proposal to hold a referendum on the issue.

Pleas by the Opposition not to take a decision at this time, because of the present American and Soviet proposals and counter-proposals on missile reduction, also fell on deaf government ears. However, Mr Hans van den Broek, the Foreign Minister, said he would continue to strive for the removal of all Euro-missiles in both East and West.

The Labour Opposition objected to keep campaigning against deployment in the run-up to parliamentary elections in May. It says that if it wins power it will review the treaty, but observers point out that even if the socialists gain the largest number of Lower House seats they will probably not be able to form a coalition that could muster a viable majority.

It seems more likely that the present centre-right coalition will remain in power.

Three French expelled by Iran as 'spies'

Tehran (Reuter) — Iran has expelled three Frenchmen, accusing them of espionage, and ordered the departure of the Tehran correspondent of Agence France-Press.

The Iranian news agency quoted the Interior Ministry as saying the French nationals were involved in "gaining information and espionage activities to distort Iran's downing of an Iranian airliner".

Iraq shot down an Iranian Fokker Friendship on February 20.

Russian's air time enrages Reagan

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The White House has sent an angry protest to the head of ABC television news expressing President Reagan's outrage that a Soviet commentator was allowed a seven-minute response to Mr Reagan's nationally televised speech on Wednesday. The network admitted it made an "error".

"I don't know why the hell the media is so willing to lend support to the Soviets," Mr Reagan told a congressional leadership meeting at the White House on Thursday.

Mr Patrick Buchanan, the White House director of communications, told ABC he was "astounded" that the network had given "a trained propagandist for the Soviet Union equal standing with the President".

He said Mr Vladimir Posner, a commentator for Moscow Radio, was given "a standing he does not merit, a legitimacy he does not deserve".

Mr Buchanan added: "Would you have felt it an expression of fair and balanced journalism if, in the

1930s, Mr Churchill's calls for the rearmament of his country were immediately followed by the BBC's granting of an unreserved commentary to some functionary of the Third Reich?"

Mr Posner, who grew up in the US and speaks flawless English, was "brilliantly denounced in Congress by Mr Bob Dornan, a California Republican, as a "little flunkey" and a "disloyal, betraying little Jew".

He said: "I'm tired of having my Government insulted by paid communist toadies. Vladimir Posner was born a Jew. And he covers up the anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. It's an affront to decency and to Jewish people around the world."

Quebec party leader will steer new path

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Pierre-Marc Johnson, leader of the Parti Québécois (PQ), has given notice that he intends to steer the party further from the goal of independence for Quebec.

He told the party's national council in Montreal that it must realize that Quebec is part of the Canadian federation to which the people have decided to continue to belong. The concept of sovereignty-association — a PQ code name for independence

— must be "updated", because it "does not appear pertinent at this time for the people".

Mr Johnson also said the party must re-examine its social democratic label. "It is time for a profound reflection on these two pillars of our political orientation," he said.

The party lost power to the Quebec Liberals in December in an election which Mr Johnson called within weeks of taking over as leader from Mr René Lévesque.

Greece calls for help with oil blaze

From Mario Modiano
Athens

Greece has sent for a British fire-fighting expert for advice on how to control a blaze that has destroyed an oil tank complex west of Salonika in northern Greece. He was expected in Salonika late last night.

Six firemen and a customs officer were injured when the fire, which had been subdued after efforts lasting five days,

suddenly revived after midnight causing a powerful explosion which turned the area into an inferno. A local villager who fled in panic died of a heart attack.

The flames and the pall of thick black smoke were visible from Salonika, spreading alarm, but the Government reassured the population that there was no threat to the city, although the suburbs nearer the site were evacuated.

Africa aid office may be closed

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

A dispute is brewing over whether to close the United Nations office for emergency operations in Africa when Mr Bradford Morse, the American administrator of the UN Development Programme, who has been coordinating African relief operations, retires at the end of June.

Some senior UN officials believe that the office which Mr Morse was asked to set up at the end of 1984 in response to the famine in Africa should be wound up, even though there are still 11.6 million people whose lives are at risk because of the drought. They argue that the UN's relief effort was intended to be only a limited operation and that the worst of the drought is now over.

Others feel that the office should be scaled down but kept going at least until there has been a decrease in the number of people at risk.

Mr Morse, who said yesterday the UN still needed to find \$680 million (£460 million) this year to sustain its relief operations in Africa, made it clear that he felt the office should be kept going, even if on a reduced scale. "But it is not my decision whether to close or not to close the office — it is up to the UN Secretary-General," he said, adding that relief operations last year had been remarkably successful.

Britain is to ask Syria for help to obtain the release of Mr Alec Collett, a British journalist held hostage by Muslim guerrillas in Lebanon for almost a year, when Mr Farouk Sharran, the Syrian Foreign Minister, starts an official visit to London on Monday.

Mr Collett, who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Lebanon, was kidnapped last March and has not been seen since, although two videos have been released showing him in captivity.

His abductors are the Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims, a group headed by Abu Nidal.

UK seeks Syrian help on hostage

By Nicholas Ashford
Diplomatic Correspondent

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500 teachers arrested

Dhaka — Police arrested about 500 teachers in Bangladesh yesterday in an attempt to end a week-long strike called to bring pressure on the Government to nationalize more than 1,500 private secondary schools (Ahmed Fazl writes).

The strike has shut down almost 90 per cent of schools and threatened the March 6 nationwide school final examination. The teachers want nationalization because it would bring their salaries up to parity with the higher pay in state schools.

Like any married couple, they were delighted to find she was expecting. But the end result was totally unexpected. The patter of tiny feet turned into a stampede.

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The Philippines after Marcos

Heavy run on bank fuels economic fears

From David Watts, Manila
A massive run on the Philippine National Bank yesterday underscored the jittery state of the country's economy...

From David Watts, Manila
admitting that most of these assets are worth nothing. Mr Ongpin and the Budget Minister, Mr Bert Romulo, are now engaged in a full-scale assessment of the Government's financial position...



A warm welcome for Mr Raul Manglapas, a former Philippines senator, on his arrival at Manila airport after spending 14 years in exile in the United States.

Pretoria fury with Britain over leaked reproach

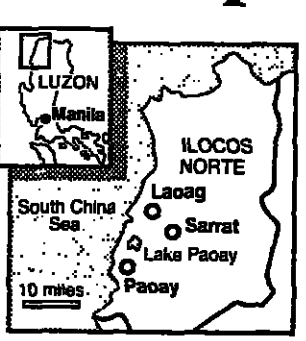
From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg
A diplomatic squabble has erupted between Britain and South Africa over what the Pretoria Government considers to be unwarranted British interference in its internal affairs.



Mr Le Grange: angry with British action.

Feudal leaders put faith in Ferdinand Junior

From Michael Hamlyn Laog, northern Philippines
It was a scene reminiscent of feudal times. In the provincial capital of the northernmost province of Ilocos Norte the governor was receiving testimonials of fealty from his mayors and members of provincial boards.



previous governor of the province who went down in history as the one man who declined to surrender his province to the Japanese. Mr Marcos is an experienced and intelligent military strategist and he knows how to deal with a coup d'etat.

medallion of a younger and more vigorous Mr Marcos. In addition to paying him tribute, and falling in line with whatever his wishes were, the mayors and board members were loud in their appreciation of Mr Marcos.

sending of a telegram to the feudal superior of them all, the new President, despite the fact that she belongs to a hated opposition party, despite the fact that their man was 'cheated of victory', despite the feeling that her triumph was the work only of Manila, and that the rest of the country would speak differently.

Key town falls to Museveni

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

Five weeks after capturing Kampala's President Museveni's troops yesterday were in control of Lira, the first important town in northern Uganda to fall to them.

Zimbabwe spurns Amnesty

From Jan Raath Harare

Zimbabwe has denied a suggestion by Amnesty International that troops were responsible for the murder of a missionary couple in the west of the country in November.

Advertisement for Arbutnot Securities Limited. Features large text: '£500 TO £2,090 IN SEVEN YEARS'. Includes a chart showing growth from £1696 to £2090. Text: 'IT IS PROBABLY BEST TO PICK A SMALLER FUND WITH A GOOD TRACK RECORD LIKE ARBUTHNOT'. Includes contact information for Arbutnot Securities Limited, 131 Finsbury Pavement, London EC2A 1AT.

Escape on ice floes
Bonn (AFP) - Two young East Germans wearing frogmen's suits fled to the West during Thursday night in sub-zero temperatures by floating across the river Elbe on ice floes...

Advertisement for a fur sale: 'SENSATIONAL END-OF-SEASON SALE BEAUTIFUL DESIGNER FURS AT LOWEST EVER FACTORY PRICES'. Includes a photo of a woman in a fur coat and the text 'LAST WEEK - ALL FURS MUST BE CLEARED!'.

Table listing fur products and prices. Columns: Product Name, RRP, DIRECT PRICE. Items include Fox Jackets, Scandinavian Blue Fox Jackets, Musquash Length Jackets, Silver Fox Jackets, Canadian Coyote Jackets, Mink Jackets, Full Length Musquash Coats, Full Length Mink Coats, Fully Stranded Canadian Red Fox Coats, and Fully Stranded Silver Fox Coats.

Advertisement for a fur sale event: 'ONE DAY ONLY, SUNDAY 2nd MARCH AT THE CYRIL KAYE FACTORY SHOWROOM'. Includes address: 137-149 Goswell Rd. London EC1. Contact info: 01-253 2252. Text: 'NEAREST TUBE STN. ANGEL. EASY PARKING AVAILABLE. ONLY 10 MINS. FROM WEST END. ALSO OPEN MON TO FRI ALL DAY. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TEL: 01-253 2252.'.



THE ARTS

Television

The notion that there is no success like failure may have been put about by an American, but it has become part of the British self image. *Lovely Joe* (BBC1), is a charming drama series devoted to the elaboration of this concept.

It was developed by Ian La Frenais from the books by Jonathan Gash about an antique dealer in East Anglia. The hero is slightly broke, mildly naughty about passing off junk for more than it is worth to ignorant punters, but his heart is in the right place. As a result he begins each episode about to pull off a major scam, make some money and fascinate a beautiful woman. He is then overcome by a general sentimentality and distracted by affection for a choice *objet d'art*, and so consequently fails on all counts.

The series is produced by Robert Banks Stewart who had successes with two earlier sagas about beautiful losers, *Shooting and Bergara*. *Lovely Joe* has all the potential charm of its predecessors. It is sharply focussed on an attractive corner of rural England; the plots are intriguing; the characterization is delicious. Ian McShane in the title role is loche, foxy, sardonic and handsome. He was born to speak in Ian La Frenais's cory pick-up lines. In real life he would be the answer to any maiden's prayer, especially a maiden who had been reading too many Georgette Heyer romances.

There are some minor flaws which also make the series less successful than it ought to be. Some of the casting is unhappy. The editing is rather idle so that the action is slowed down by meaningless shots of unpicturesque country lanes or empty rooms.

On the whole *Lovely Joe* seems to be suffering from the same lack of conviction as its central character but it is still near the beginning of the first series and there is plenty of time for improvement.

Celia Brayfield

Opera

Hooked on the triumph of a giant catch

Otello
New Theatre,
Cardiff

The Welsh National Opera this week have the contented smile of an angler who has landed a big fish that turns out to be even larger than expected. With them the German director Peter Stein has made what is, to all intents and purposes, his opera debut. His previous foray into the genre, *The Ring* for Paris, was half aborted before it opened and is now virtually forgotten. His true starting point has to be Verdi's *Otello* in Cardiff and after its triumphant opening here there are likely to be many Stein opera productions to follow.

He begins with thunderbolts crossing the Mediterranean sky as the storm at sea reaches its peak and that sets the tension level for the evening. Stein through his groupings, through his lighting, even through simple props like a shielding red curtain or a sword thrown to the ground, strips bare the human emotions created by Shakespeare, Verdi and Boito. It may all look direct, but everything is built up with the most careful artifice: the staging is the construction made by meticulous planning.

Lucio Fanti's tawny sets make the small stage of the New Theatre smaller still with a second proscenium and raised wooden platform. Side walls are surfaces split to let in shafts of light cutting on to a solitary figure or creating a black silhouette. The back

panels part to reveal a starlit night, a stormy sea or a posse of Venetian envoys. Moidele Bickel's costumes have a renaissance cut but they trade in character: Otello is in black throughout, Desdemona in white and Iago, the two-faced man, in clothes that split down the middle, half crimson and half red.

From this Peter Stein creates a swiftly moving series of pictures from some well-endowed art gallery: a di Chirico, a Raphael here, a Vermeer there. But his action is anything but museum-like. He thrusts his singers as far forward as is physically possible so that Iago eyeballs the audience during the *Credo* and is finally arrested within an inch of falling into the orchestra pit.

He draws from his singers performances of an extrovert intensity not encountered in houses where the main concern is only the next note. Jeffrey Lawton's Otello on record or radio would probably sound raw; an unhappy close to the *Love Duet*, a lack of tenderness for the final act.

On stage it comes close to working because of Lawton's commitment to the black bull goaded beyond endurance by a white lace handkerchief rather than a red cape. This Otello is animal force, lumbering and hirsute — no surprise that Stein's next theatre production is *The Hairy Ape*.

Donald Maxwell will probably never excel his Iago, no creeping creature but half a clown taking pleasure in deriding the indifferent minds around him. He is the manipulator, taking full vengeance



Rich, resonant security: Donald Maxwell as Iago in Otello

for being passed over in the promotion race. He capers, he leaps, he wins every trick but the final one, and above all he sings with a baritone resonant and rich in its security.

Helen Field's Desdemona is another interpretation of high accomplishment, apart from an awkward moment in act II. The voice is gaining by the month in power while still retaining the girlish timbre for

Otello's child bride. The Willow Song, complete with a moment's self annoyance, could offer lessons to many better known sopranos.

Some of the supporting roles need to be strengthened vocally, but no such requirements for a chorus on peak form. Richard Armstrong's orchestra was on peak form too, conscious that the happenings on stage could cast

them in the shadow. They stayed in the sunlight.

The WNO have landed their big catch. Other opera houses are likely to be after it and arrangements are already under way with the Monnaie in Brussels for a Stein exchange. *Otello* is going to be one of the milestones of the Brian Macmaster rule here.

John Higgins

Concerts

Surprise jewel

Philharmonia/
Salonen
Festival Hall

It does not often happen that the most rewarding item in a concert is the overture. Such, though, was the case — if you could demean Ligeti's *Melodien* of 1971 by dismissing its function here as one of merely raising the curtain — in the Philharmonia Orchestra's concert with Esa-Pekka Salonen. For one thing, it proved that there is nothing quite like concentrated, exposed writing to encourage musicians to give of their best. Ligeti's delicate textures demand the finest control, in dynamic as well as in pitch and tone quality, for nothing in this jewel of a work is wasted.

It is music that presents itself very much as an abstract but dynamic canvas, painted on a complex background of micropolyphony whose slowly changing colours provide a sense of constant harmonic tension.

Against this, at first in hesitant wisps of sound, emerge half muscled melodic fragments which gradually

grow in their assertiveness and proliferation as Ligeti realizes the fertility of his initially apparently innocuous backcloth. But the melodies remain fragmentary and hinted at rather than fully realized, and eventually they recede into a beautiful, spare coda. This was a conspicuously neat performance from the orchestra's reduced forces.

It is sad to reflect that if Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto had not also been on the programme, far fewer would probably have come to hear such a beautiful example of post-war originality. As it was, John Lill, deputising at short notice for Alexander Toradz, seemed strangely uninvolved in the earlier work, and the otherwise admirable power and light and shade of his reading sat rather perily on the music's surface. Salonen's account of Nielsen's Fourth Symphony, the "Inextinguishable", itself scarcely a crowd puller, was likewise disappointing. There were too many rough edges in the playing, and the work's epic nature was somewhat compromised by something approaching pedestrianism.

Stephen Pettitt

Complex individuality

Purcell Quartet
Wigmore Hall

Listeners in the baroque period were just as spellbound by the instrumental virtuosity of their day as 19th-century audiences were by Paganini and Liszt. With good reason, too: music written for their own use by brilliant fiddlers like Locatelli and Tartini, or the unrivalled viola da gamba wizard Antoine Forqueray, is not only technically strenuous, pushing baroque instruments and fingering to their ultimate achievements. It is also witty, improvisatory fare: full of rhetorical echoes, quirky digressions and weird but effective cadences.

The Purcell Quartet, a "trio sonata" combination of two violins, gamba and harpsichord, is currently presenting whole programmes of the stuff on an Early Music Network tour, and very entertaining evenings they make.

One reason for the success which this group has achieved in a comparatively short time (it was formed only in 1984) is the players' persuasive ability to find and convey the individuality of each piece they play. Even baroque trio sonatas have unique features, if one knows where to look.

Thus a D major sonata by Locatelli was delivered in a sustained, tonally full style, well suited to its arresting modulatory twists and sensuous chains of sixths and

thirds, while a much more airy, scurrying and impulsive reading underlined the eccentricities of a Johann Rosenmüller sonata.

Sacked from his organist post at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig (half a century before Bach's day) for offences involving choirboys, Rosenmüller displays more admirable deviations in his bold harmonic and structural imagination here.

The Purcell Quartet's excellent tuning and consistently unified approach was demonstrated in a cleanly bowed and stylishly nuanced performance of Purcell's Sonata in F, the aptly named "Golden Sonata". Elsewhere, individual prowess was apparent.

Richard Boothby showed the gamba player's art at its most intricate in three pieces from a Forqueray suite, though the soloist's sepulchral double-stoppings sometimes failed to stand out sufficiently from the continuo background.

Violinists Catherine Mackintosh and Elizabeth Wallfish respectively projected the farmyard imitations in Biber's *Sonata Rappresentativa* and the "devil's trills" of the celebrated Tartini sonata with finesse; this showy sonata with finesse; this showy sonata could, one suspects, have borne even more extrovert treatment. But there was plenty of rough vigour in Robert Woolley's delivery of two Scarlatti sonatas.

Richard Morrison

Theatre

Across from the Garden of Allah Comedy

By my count, this is Charles Wood's third theatrical onslaught on the American film industry, and, again, it conveys the impression that he has spent as much time in collecting ammunition against the studios as in writing screen plays for them. Seldom has the feeding hand been bitten to greater comic effect than in Mr Wood's *Veterans and Has Washington Legs?*

However, if you are looking for anything along the lines of *Bernie the Volt* (the ultimate philistine technician) or Sir John Gielgud, abandoned on a cardboard horse, threatening to withdraw his labour, you will not find it in *The Garden of Allah*. The earlier pieces were racy, front-line reports from the slide area. The new play presents an aloof long-shot of Hollywood, and implies that the author has had enough of all that madness and is now bidding it a contemptuously detached farewell.

The title refers to a once celebrated, now demolished hotel on Sunset Boulevard, whose decline is mirrored in the fortunes of the English couple who have booked into a hotel across the way. Douglas is a screen writer who has had nothing produced for 10 years. He is now working on his second re-write of *Vile Bodies*; and, courtesy of the studio (Wagner, Bean, and Lentil) he has brought his wife on her first trip to California. Barbara is an old hand at conference calls linking New York, Honolulu, and Bombay; and she likes the idea of seeing Myra Loy's footprint in Grauman's Chinese. The-

atre. Otherwise, she responds to the place with mounting horror.

Into her "scrawny" fifties she feels miserably out of place among the crowds of unclad youth. She is on to Douglas like lightning at the first sight of a wandering eye, while also becoming obsessed that she is being spied on. Douglas, meanwhile, grinds out his script with growing resentment that WBL have not called him, and increasing temptation to sign on with a new agent whose only stipulation is that he should make friends with her stuffed dog. Both finally realize that Hollywood is no place for them. "I used to enjoy coming here," Douglas says. "Now you made me look at it, you've spoilt it for me." In other words, he has work there — and she has none.

The play does not make that obvious point; and for much of the evening it is hard to see what point it is making. The first act takes place in the hotel, beginning with retrospective bedroom conversation and then moving to the pool with much dismissive comment from Barbara on the surrounding company. Is this meant to reflect her physical envy, or is it Mr Wood talking? Then, out of the blue, one of the fellow guests collapses and dies — evidently to supply a first act curtain.

As though recognizing that nothing much has happened so far, Mr Wood makes amends with an event-packed second act in which the couple rashly take a walk on the desolate streets where they are picked up and grilled by the police; and returned, shaken and humiliated, to their air-conditioned prison: only to have their peace rent by a mass rally of prostitutes down



Hollywood strifes: Nigel Hawthorne and Glenda Jackson

below and a helicopter buzzing their window. It is more like an anti-American nightmare than the work of a seasoned observer.

Mr Wood does get his target in focus with some scathingly funny lines.

As Ron Daniels's production stars Nigel Hawthorne and Glenda Jackson there is no danger of the visiting couple emerging as Mr and Mrs Average. The trouble is that their relationship remains undefined. Whether in conversation or in telegraphic monologue (is she talking to herself or talking to us?) Miss Jackson projects an indiscriminate general derision that seems to include her husband along with the whole disaster area. Mr Hawthorne comes over as a thoroughly-going, disenchanted professional with comic insight into his own weakness; but with no insight into his partner. A Mexican waiter is exuberantly sketched by Andy Lucas; and Ralph Koltai's brutal settings at once convey opulence and squalor.

Introducing the Theatre Upstairs' season of new plays by Northern writers (which sounds a mite patronizing already), Tony Heston's dogged domestic drama was premiered at the Liverpool Playhouse a month ago. Theatrically and stylistically, it seems to reach yet further back in time, to the naturalistic low-rent movies of the early 1960s. It surely cannot have taken the theatre a quarter of a century to catch up with the cinema.

The set-up is simplicity itself: a failed family on a council estate in Newcastle held together not by the embittered unemployed father (Art Davis) nor by the boorish unemployed son (Buster Scott) let alone by the washed-out, recently hospitalized mother (Sheila Reid), but by the bright, resolute daughter (Tracey Wilkinson), an A-level student given to threatening imminent departure in order to set up as a singer in her elder sister's footsteps.

Vicariously preying on the

Irving Wardle

family's distress, a successfully criminal coeval of the father's (Ralph Watson) loses no opportunity to humiliate the menfolk in pub or betting shop, and makes plain his prurient interest in the daughter — without, however, confronting her in person, which leaves a narrative thread dangling. Like many new playwrights, Mr Heston appears to have a wealth of (presumably) well-observed material to hand without having much of an idea of how to extract dramatic mileage from it.

The most absorbing scene has the daughter bringing home a tentative young man for a nice cup of instant, only to have her amorous intentions thwarted, serially, by her intrusively demanding family. Miss Wilkinson works very well with Michael McNally in this episode: later, she turns into a pep-talking pain, and Tim Fywell's production proceeds by means of agonizingly prolonged exchanges as stretched as his company's gallantly essayed Geordie vowels.

Martin Cropper

Radio
A driving force

If ever a programme demonstrated that legislation is one thing, culture another, it was the third in the four-part series, *Women — Equal Sex?* (Radio 4, Wednesdays; producer, Mary Price). The series as a whole is examining women's attitudes to equality as seen through the eyes of a different subject each week and to its credit it has taken note of the fact that not all women want equality in the sense in which it is commonly used: matching the menfolk point for point.

Bel Mooney is the interviewer and she asks excellent productive questions though sometimes, as it seems to me, a few more than lie comfortably with an easy conversation. All the same, she got Sue Forrester to talk last Wednesday, no doubt about it.

Mrs Forrester is wife, mother and bus-driver. "Oh God", exclaimed a passenger boarding her bus, "it's a woman." The passenger was herself a woman. Sometimes Mrs Forrester takes it on the chin, sometimes she asks such exclaimers politely whether they would have said in other circumstances, "Oh God, it's a man".

It was quite a struggle to become a woman bus-driver in Yorkshire, but you need to listen to this lady for only half a minute to know that she is an amiably determined, intelligent and able woman. So she made it as a driver, took some R.S.A. exams and presented herself as a very well qualified candidate for inspector.

She was turned down, time and again, unintermitted. Finally, goaded by well-funded suspicions of discrimination, she took her employers to the law and won. Mrs Forrester is not what anyone could call a feminist, but enough was enough.

From this the talk widened to home life and attitudes and, yes indeed, when her husband, who also works for the buses, gets home each afternoon, he takes off his jacket, puts on his slippers, sinks into his favourite chair and it's "Put the kettle on, eh love?" She gets out of her uniform and into an apron, gets the tea and does the day's housework. It probably wouldn't occur to him that things could be otherwise.

She turns it over in her mind, but she's nothing if not a realist and has come to the conclusion that women are more adaptable than men: both making changes and accepting the status quo are less irying for her own sex.

So, she reasons, if it were between his job or hers, it would be better if she lost hers. She could cope. Now how does anybody legislate to alter that? Anyway, I often think — and always when I hear the less of Mrs Forrester — that it's not the women that need equality, it's the men.

Immediately after this of a Wednesday evening, Peter Evans is presenting a series of *The Mind in Focus* (Radio 4; producer, Daniel Snowman). This is not five half-hours of the latest thing in neurophysiology, or the relationship between brain and mind, but a string of mini-features-cum-discussions, each looking at a different aspect of human behaviour; for example, sexual attraction, forming and holding opinions, religious belief and — next week — humour.

Maybe this is fair enough: according to one persuasive view, behaviour is the only evidence for the existence of mind that we have. On the other hand, by the time Mr Evans's illustrated introduction is over, that leaves a bare twenty minutes for him and three experts to chew each topic over and this is plainly not enough.

On yet another hand, no amount of time of whatever duration has ever been found sufficient to bring these evidences of the human mind into anything that might be called focus. But on the fourth hand, you can do better or worse even with impossibility and I would have liked to hear a discussion about belief, for instance, that did not give off the religious version as if it were a thing apart.

Readiness to believe is the basic condition and it will apply itself like paint to anything. You might also say that belief is an unacknowledged synonym for ignorance, since what you know you do not have to believe.

David Wade

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Three men and a vote: Bel Mooney watches the long wooing of the electorate in Fulham

Genghis Khan among the yuppies

If a casting director were responsible for choosing the three prospective candidates in the forthcoming Fulham by-election, the accusation of stereotyping would be hard to avoid. Unlabelled, they could be identified with ease.

Matthew Carrington is the epitome of Tory breeding: tall, craggy and pinstriped — as befits a man who works for a Saudi Arabian bank. Nick Raynsford's good intentions shine from his healthy bespectacled face, giving him the look of a corduroy-coated primary teacher keen for extra duties, despite Labour leanings. Since 1973 he has been director of SHAC, an organization that campaigns for the homeless.

And Roger Liddle wears a well-cut navy overcoat and speaks with great precision, as though trying to convince himself of his own meaning, which — considering he defected from a family Labour allegiance to the SDP — he probably is. He once worked in the electricity industry and is leader of the Alliance on Lambeth council.

All are of an age (around 40); it appears that each would make an excellent constituency MP and each carries a burden on his shoulders. For Liddle it is the locally unpopular stance made by Liberals with the Tories on the local council. For Raynsford it is the strong leftward move of the London Labour Party as a whole; the Bernie Grant syndrome. For Carrington, who is defending a Conservative majority of almost 5,000, it still could be the Prime Minister herself — although he maintains that her support in Fulham as strong as ever.

Certainly that would seem to be so in Stokenchurch Street, where Carrington canvasses on a bitter night (since the date of the by-election is still undecided, he is careful to call this enthusiastic activity "meeting people"). In this road of late Victorian terrace houses the Tory vote looks as solid as one can guess, given puzzled nannies who cannot answer for their employers, the woman who hands him the cordless phone on the freezing doorstep so that her dentist husband can engage him lengthily on dental charges.

One man announces that he will support Carrington "as long as you support Mrs Thatcher", assuring the prospective candidate that his whole household is "right of Genghis Khan". This is fashionable Fulham, where good taste and money have converted workers' cottages into *Homes and Gardens* interiors.

Carrington knows he's on his own territory; his whole demeanour is pleasant and confident — discounting gloomy forecasts for the Tories after Westland and British Leyland, denying that they would have had a better chance of holding Fulham had they selected a "wet", or at least someone who would distance

himself from Margaret Thatcher. Carrington's response would be heard in Tory saloons: "She is the leader of the party and her job is not finished yet. She has a lot left to do."

As every candidate knows, voters confronted on their doorsteps will usually utter whatever reassuring words are guaranteed to get rid of their visitor quickly, especially if an icy wind is sucking the centrally heated air from the stippled hall. A foray into Fulham with Roger Liddle yields a much more mixed impression. Faced with the Alliance candidate, people are likely to murmur that Westland was a bit of a shock, so perhaps...?

An expensively dressed, upper middle-class woman in her fifties announced: "No, I'm going to vote for Maggie." But if it was clearly a straight contest between the Alliance and Labour, would she shift? "Oh yes, anything to keep Labour out. To be frank, I'm tempted to vote SDP anyway, but my husband would strangle me!" In Kempton Road the faded demographic variety of Fulham is apparent.

We meet a teacher who used to vote Labour but now doesn't know, a woman who used to vote Tory but now doesn't know, an aged Pole who thinks the police ought to have weapons; an elderly Tory lady who is unhappy about the party but thinks that to vote SDP, even to keep Labour out, "would be like the rat deserting the sinking ship"; and a harassed working-class woman clutching a baby who says, "You'd better speak to my husband — he does all the politics, like." Inside, a male voice shouts, "Is that the SDP? Tell him I'm voting for him this time." So will she vote SDP too? "If he does we all do."

According to Liddle, some of the traditional Labour votes on council estates are going "soft", and public unease with Mrs Thatcher's style will benefit the SDP — which is busily constructing its electioneering structure from a converted shop in the North End Road. But the problems inherent in such optimism become clear if you take Robin and Sarah Barrett as typical of professional Fulham.

He is 40, an international marketing man; she is now a housewife with two small children but once worked as a secretary to Edward Heath, and is keenly interested in politics. When Liddle caught them at home the response was promising: "A lot of people like us whom you label Conservative are uneasy about the way things are going in this country." So might they vote SDP? They might — and would certainly attend a town hall meeting with Shirley Williams.

A few days after that meeting,



Roger Liddle on the doorstepping trail: voters who don't know, voters who might

however, when I visited them minus the SDP candidate, they were disappointed. Liddle had been hampered by a cold, Mrs Williams was unimpressive, they heard too much waffle and not enough about policy. The wavering vote was already stabilizing.

The Barretts epitomize decency and concern: anxious about what Robin calls "the north-south dichotomy" and uneasy that Mrs Thatcher appears to have no understanding of "how hard it is for some people". In a by-election they would vote "more on local issues". Nevertheless it is clear that, incapable of voting Labour ("a weak opposition — destroyed by Militant") and reluctantly unexcited by the SDP ("though we still have open minds") they are likely to vote as they always have.

"We're all agreed about Mrs Thatcher, but what is the alternative? What scares us is that there will be more situations where we have to confront extremism. The Kinnocks will not do it. That is the bottom line. It is

the tough Mrs Thatchers who make it a safe world."

Though much is being made of the gentrification of Fulham, in assessing what effect it will have on the by-election it is a mistake to regard this as a new phenomenon. Fulham has been shifting for over 100 years, and the most significant demographic alteration occurred at the very beginning of the 1970s.

Maxwell Road, a stone's throw from the Chelsea football ground, is a paradigm of social change. It was built in 1868, and inhabited by labourers, carpenters, railway workers and market gardeners. A little later the area went "up" with the arrival of architects, a waiter, a smith and a coach-painter. There were even one or two houses in Maxwell Road with servants.

By the 1960s the street was distinctly tatty, and the Labour council bought up the houses for

demolition. Conservatives, victorious in the 1968 local election, decided to sell them off, creating fierce controversy about pushing out working-class people who could no longer afford to live there. By 1972 Maxwell Road was a patchwork of faded, peeling council and private rented houses alongside rehabilitated or gutted ones.

At that time I met Jack Labery, a theatre electrician who had lived in the same rented house in Maxwell Road since 1915, when he moved there as a boy with his parents. In 1972 his wife Jean told me placidly, "I don't think it's fair the way they turn out all the working class and put them into pokey flats when they've been used to a big house with a garden." One year later their house was demolished. After a battle over their requirements, the council rehoused them in Waltham Green Court, with its graffiti and empty windy walks. That is where I traced them this week. Jack and Jean, now 86 and 85, have just

celebrated 61 years of marriage and 12 years in the flat. They still miss the old street community.

Houses in Maxwell Road now cost about £200,000. The owners I found at home assured me they would vote Conservative. As for the Laberys, they have always voted Conservative too, only this time they will change. Nick Raynsford is the factor. Jean Labery explains: "All those years ago he was a councillor around here and you could always go to him with your problems. I think he's a good man, and we want an MP whom you think of as a friend."

Raynsford is certainly a strong card for the Labour Party, always moderate in Fulham. He has lived in the constituency since 1968, was a Labour member of Fulham and Hammersmith Council from 1971 to 1975 and has an excellent reputation.

He believes that the "yuppie" SDP vote is over-emphasised, and maintains that he has found strong support in the smart flats of

Barons Court. He is concentrating his campaign on hard social issues: "Like unemployment — one in six men in Fulham out of work. Apart from that the two big issues are housing and the NHS, with people very worried about proposed closures of St Stephen's Hospital and the West London Hospital."

"And there are other issues. For instance, there are children at risk in Fulham who have not got a social worker allocated because the social-work complements are 15 per cent below establishment level."

Raynsford has been door-stepping with a petition against the hospital closures, instead of asking the usual straight question, "Are you going to vote for us?" It is a subtle strategy. In the busy and rough North End Road market, the Labour Party campaigning ambulance is parked in a side street.

People whom you might expect to cross the street to avoid party politics make a detour to sign the petition. There are many words of encouragement — "The country is in a terrible state and it's all because of that woman" — mostly from women in headscarves.

Raynsford makes capital of his local links: his three daughters were born in the West London, for example. He is most confident of his vote in the big estates, such as the "Clem Atiles" and the "West Ken", where a population of single mothers, pensioners and families with the father unemployed may well be disaffected by government meanness. In a three-candidate radio phone-in this week he was served well, since the bulk of the questions were about housing, his speciality.

Callers were concerned less with Mrs Thatcher's personality and mistakes than with issues that affected their everyday lives. That, after all, is the bedrock of politics, summed up with admirable simplicity by Robin Barrett: "Look — all people want to get on, to improve their lot in life, and without too much confrontation. That is a need which has nothing to do with social class."

The "right-of-Genghis Khan" man in Fulham may bark that "consensus politics don't work"; yet, curiously, the three Fulham hopefuls represent in different ways the broad and civilized centre of British political life, deny it as they might.

A spell of two weeks around Fulham before the by-election is a reminder that although people expect political change to occur in great waves, and politicians to have the skill of surfers, the local reality is far less dramatic. The sea is slightly choppy, as it always has been, and the three candidates paddle about somewhat helplessly, unsure of the likely direction of the wind.

Woodrow Wyatt

Give Botha enough time to bury apartheid

The word has so long convinced itself that a government controlled by Afrikaners would not initiate a dismantling of apartheid that it cannot absorb that this is happening fast.

I spoke last Tuesday to Colin Egin, once again leader of the Progressive Federal Party. He, too, was sceptical. When I pressed him he said he would be delighted to support the government if it implemented its promises, which he doubted.

The African National Congress, which gets its funds from abroad and its arms from Russia, is thought of overseas as the main mouthpiece of the non-whites. Though it is strong, chiefly in the black townships, this is far from true. The ANC is merely pro-forma disbelief of meaningful reform but fears it. Its propaganda message to blacks — that the way forward is through the gun, to be followed by a one-party black state — is seriously weakened as reasonable black demands are met.

I met a more typical black reaction as I went through the slum township of Crossroads, near Cape Town, where 250,000 blacks live. From an intelligent secretary-cum-receptionist of a black community centre, she said if the pass laws were abolished and educational standards for blacks were radically improved as promised, the government would "get the thumbs up" locally. I heard similar comments touring well-housed black Soweto. Reform, not revolution, was desired.

It all depends on President P. W. Botha, with whom I had a talk this week. He struck me as determined and straight, a man who having pledged a course will not abandon it, because his honour is involved.

The pass laws were designed to control the massive influx of blacks from rural areas into the towns, with all the destitution such a move entailed. Blacks, not whites, have to carry a reference book showing their tribal classification and place of origin. Failure to show it on demand can bring arrest, imprisonment and a fine.

The president agreed with what Harry Oppenheimer of Anglo-American, which employs many thousands of blacks, had told me:

most blacks who want to go to the towns have already gone there. The unnecessary reference books will be replaced, through legislation to be passed in the next few weeks, by a brief identity card. Anyone, white or non-white, who has not got it on him will be given time to produce it. The president was emphatic about this.

He was emphatic too about equal standards for black education. A population bulge among blacks has resulted in a shortage of black qualified teachers but there is no escaping his determination to honour his expensive pledge.

The Group Areas Act, designating where those of different colours may live, is already fraying. It will take time to provide new land for mixed housing and many non-whites are not happy about too abrupt a change. They fear that house prices, particularly now that non-whites are being allowed freehold ownership, could slump. But this form of apartheid is going.

Certainly there are pockets of segregation left after so many years but the tide of change is destroying them rapidly. The most visible manifestation is the cheerful mixing of black and white in public places and the warm friendliness shown by blacks to whites. The notion that South Africa is nothing but a battlefield of racial conflicts is absurd, as I saw everywhere I went.

In some townships intimidation is a la Scarcell in the ANC is rife. While I was in South Africa Helen Suzman, on a TV discussion programme, demanded the removal of the army from the worst affected areas. She was rebuked by a black man from a township who told her she did not live in one, and those who did expected protection from the organized ANC noters.

The policy of apartheid is officially and actually dead. The battleground has changed to a normal struggle for political power. The ANC demands a straight handover to itself alone. The president wants a constitutional conference on power-sharing. However much it is denied by the ANC, he says, South Africa is a nation of minorities.

The six million Xhosa (from whom the main leaders of the ANC come) would not willingly be

ruled by the six million Zulus and vice versa; the seven million in the homelands, with considerable autonomy, would not accept ANC domination; nor would millions of moderate blacks in the rural areas and in the townships.

John Kane-Berman, the respected director of the South African Institute of Race Relations, told me that in a genuinely free election the ANC could not be sure of a majority even in the major townships, and certainly not in those with a large Zulu element.

The president has invited the ANC exiles, Nelson Mandela and all, to negotiate power-sharing in a constitutional conference over which he will preside. Reasonably, he wants the ANC to forswear violence during negotiations. Hammering out a solution satisfactory to all the interests including the five million whites and the four million Coloureds and Indians will take, in my view, at least two years.

The ANC rejects the invitation because it is afraid of being exposed as failing to be the principal voice of non-white opinion. The president is set on getting his conference and if the ANC refuses to come it will lose much ground. Black South Africans are reasonable: they don't want to lose what is easily the best standard of living of any black Africans. Foreign governments and media, instead of encouraging the ANC to win minority power by the gun, should be persuading the ANC to talk realistically.

Only President Botha can guide white opinion to total acceptance in their hearts of the blacks as equal citizens. It would be calamitous if he were not there for the next, dangerous, two years. Unless the West has decided that it does not care if South Africa descends into anarchy and a Marxist dictatorship under Russian suzerainty, it should back him.

Meanwhile the well-equipped South African army is capable for some years of preventing the ANC from making South Africa ungovernable — if that is the arid alternative the ANC prefers to the genuine search for power-sharing among the disparate groups that comprise South Africa.

SPORTING DIARY

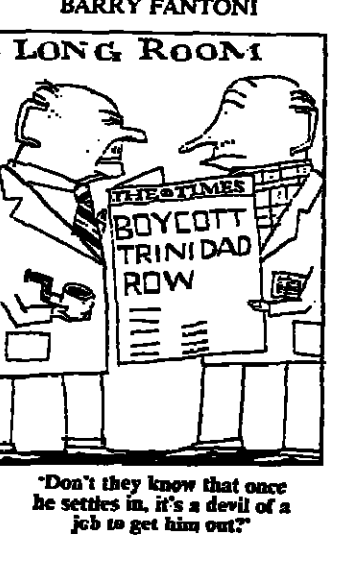
Simon Barnes

La difference

So this is what they mean by *sang froid*. Monique Berlioux, the former executive secretary of the International Olympics Committee, is senior consultant to the Parisian Olympics committee, vying to be host of the 1992 Olympic Games in competition with Birmingham, Barcelona and the rest. The Mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, recently held a meeting of this group at the Automobile Club de France. La Berlioux, however, was stopped at the door — women are not permitted to enter the club. A message summoned Chirac and his men on to the pavement, where she suggested that they move the meeting elsewhere. But the Parisian Olympians hussed their epaulettes... and went back in to continue the meeting. Monique stayed out in the cold.

Putney oar bust

The oarswomen of Britain are marching on — despite the refusal of Henley Royal Regatta to have anything to do with them. Next Saturday's Women's Eight Head of the River Race will be held for the first time over the same full course as the men's event — from



"Don't they know that once he settles in, it's a devil of a job to get him out?"

Street-wise

Johann Cruyff, once the dazzling centre forward of Ajax, the Amsterdam football club, and now their manager, wants to bring back street football. That was how he learned, he says. So he has turned part of the Ajax car park into a mock-up of pavement pitches, so local lads can drop in.

Trot vite

The freeze which has wiped out horse racing across the country has driven some desperate betting men to plunge into the unfamiliar world of French trotting races. They have had to endure an added frustration, however: finding horses disqualified in mid-race. How can this happen, they have wondered? The answer is that if a trotting horse breaks into a gallop it is disqualified.

Racing Tip

Limerick Junction Racecourse in Ireland will now no longer be confused with Limerick Racecourse, which is 40 miles away — its name is being changed to Tipperary. Occasional errors in newspapers (these things do happen sometimes) have caused bigger crowds to arrive at the wrong racecourse than the right one. It has only been called Limerick Junction Racecourse since 1916.

End of run

This week's events in the Philippines call to mind the Manila Marathon, held a couple of years back. At a reception Ferdinand Marcos apologised for the city's dirty streets. He suggested: "Next time we should run the marathon in the rain forest where we train our men in guerrilla warfare."

Anne Sofer

No end: perhaps a beginning

The lunchtime news headlines yesterday were dominated by the end of the teachers' strike. "End? What end?" is what many parents must have thought to themselves, as they surveyed their own children kicking their heels at home as teachers take action against the latest Burnham "sellout".

The action has been very bad around here. It is a strong NUT area, increasingly militant as frustration mounted over the years. Since last November, when the balance of the Burnham teachers panel changed and the national press began to talk of peace, the local mood has hardened in the opposite direction.

The local NUT decided on "guerrilla action". They split the official half-day a month strike into 10 and 20-minute splinters, informed the heads that the whole school would be made inoperable, got backing from the national NUT for this tactic, and — taking everybody totally by surprise, politicians, head teachers, and parents most of all — closed the majority of secondary schools in the area for all but examination classes for two weeks in December. The tactic was repeated in February, spreading to some primary schools as well, and it is also planned for March.

The mood of parents has changed. At the beginning support for teachers was strong. Everyone agreed their pay was disgraceful. It is the sort of area where a large traditional working-class community and more recent trendy leftish parents combined to support any good education strategy. But the attitudes of those same parents when their own children have been out of school for four whole weeks, with another two to come, can swing sharply.

Besides, there is a sense of unfairness. The press reports that it is the areas represented by Conservative ministers that are being targeted for action. But everybody knows that it is far worse in Frank Dobson's Labour Holborn and St Pancras than in Mrs Thatcher's Conservative Finchley.

Non-NUT teacher classes are attending normally while NUT teachers classes get sent home. Many staff rooms are divided and bitter places. Some public meet-

ings called to explain the issues to parents have ended in inter-union wrangling and recrimination.

At one meeting a parent asked the NUT representative why his union was not prepared to join negotiations with the other unions, and was told that the reason was that most of the other unions were not TUC-affiliated. There is a wrong assumption that parents share the same shibboleths and vocabulary of industrial struggle as themselves.

The people who do share that vocabulary are of course the Labour politicians, who are now spinelessly floundering while calling on the head teachers to "hold the situation". But I fear NUT members are marching themselves into a cul de sac — pledged to fight to the bitter end, under the banner of Houghton, and losing their friends even on the left at risk of embittering and bewilderment both children and parents when they read "school strike over" on the newspaper morning.

At a recent parents' meeting which I attended, many local Labour luminaries spoke up asking the NUT to call off the strike and join the talks. One distinguished local authority leader actually suggested that the teachers have to accept defeat, like the rest of us have...

That seems to me quite the wrong way to put it. I do not think the teachers should accept defeat, and I am sure that those who conspire to present the frail settlements which have been reached as a "defeat" are doing the country and the profession no good at all.

All eyes should now be on next year's settlement. Teachers are starting 1986 with salaries 8.5 per cent up. They had hopes of an improvement above that. If they can actually agree to sit around the same table (and if Labour, Conservative and Alliance employers can, surely they can) bargain over the whole range of pay, conditions and structure together, they might even have the strength to bring more than the current offer of £1.25 billion out of Sir Keith. By then the Conservative government may be glad of peace, even at a higher price.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras South.



DISORDERLY CONDUCT

The definition of a "disorderly" currency market used to be one in which exchange rates moved more than one per cent in a single day. On that measure, we now live in perpetual disorder. An up or down in the pound's external value of several cents - even half-a-dozen pennings - has become a daily feature of life. Speculators' greed, however, is other men's misery: this volatility excites the suspicion of the world's traders and travellers that the international currency system is out of control.

It is ironic, but not illogical, that this suspicion should take hold at precisely the moment when the five governments responsible for the world's major currencies should be attempting joint currency management for the first time in over a decade. The same phenomena that have disturbed their citizens have made governments anxious too. Their intentions, however, need to be clarified.

The markets are presently upset by a changing perception of the all-important dollar, from a super-strong currency which can only be held down by concerted action, to a vulnerable commodity whose price is dangerously likely to go into free fall. They are further preoccupied with a falling oil price, which has made the pound a convenient alternative to sell.

The risk of a "hard landing" for the dollar has been exacerbated by the confusion in Washington. America's trade

deficit, for which another fearful monthly record was struck yesterday, is at the heart of the problem. It causes the likes of President Reagan's Commerce Secretary to hunger for a cheaper, more competitive dollar, while to the likes of his central banker it demonstrates the danger that a dollar realignment might accelerate into a rout. As Mr Malcolm Baldrige and Mr Paul Volcker (to say nothing of present and past Treasury Secretaries James Baker and Donald Regan) exhibit shades of difference of opinion on the dollar, so its rate oscillates in the listening market-place.

This tension in American policy was evident even at last January's meeting of the "Group of Five" finance ministers and central bankers. It is not only in Washington that it must be resolved. The dollar's recent gyrations led to calls for another hasty meeting of the "Group of Five"; for having taken on the task of currency management, these five governments cannot now take their hands off the wheel.

The responsibility for a "soft landing" of the dollar also rests with Japan and Germany; the remaining two of the five, France and Britain, have their own local preoccupations. Sterling, weakened by falling oil prices and outside the European Monetary System, is a lonely target every time the dollar steadies.

The most obvious way to take the heat out of the exchanges is to achieve a greater co-ordination of in-

terest rates. It is not only dollar-users that stand to benefit. As the pound's further lurch yesterday demonstrated, the British have little chance of substantially lowering interest rates unless the others do so first.

Such close co-ordination cannot sensibly be managed through occasional, and now highly-sensitive, meetings of five finance ministers. The system itself must change. Yet even if the Group of Five forge closer day-to-day links, it is not evident that they can cure the volatility of the present exchange-rate system.

The urge to co-operate came from concern that the world's most important currency was selling at a dangerously inflated price. Although the difficulty of adjusting this price smoothly has added to currency market volatility, there is another underlying cause: the rapid growth in the worldwide, 24-hour business of buying and selling currencies.

It is this market power that makes governments fearful to intervene. Even in today's disorder, there is no real support for a return to fixed rates. Rather, there is an appetite for some kind of "target zones" within which currency oscillations would be confined. That would still be a long step on from the present system of private half-understandings between the Group of Five - a system which is even now showing severe strains. It is, however, the only possible next step along this particular path.

MUBARAK AND THE PYRAMID MUTINY

The riots which erupted in Egypt this week have given the world a glimpse of the instability which lies so close to the surface, in Egypt as in many other countries of the Middle East.

Five years ago, President Mubarak succeeded in averting the threat to Egypt's stability posed by the assassination of Anwar Sadat. He was able to give Egypt the solidity to withstand the threat of resurgent Islamic fundamentalism. He succeeded in staving off the worst effects of economic decline and he started to give ordinary Egyptians a little more say in the running of their country.

What he was not able to supply was the measure of vision and the high international profile that his predecessors had brought to the office of President. This deficiency is now telling.

The immediate causes of this week's unrest remain unclear. There is the alleged rumour that three years of conscription were going to become four. There is the undoubted dissatisfaction on the part of the conscripts at the contrast between their own lifestyle and that of the people they were protecting. There is the possible involvement of religious or political provocateurs. But beneath everything lies deep-seated frustration affecting all but the uppermost layers of Egyptian society.

For the poorest - among whom this week's rioting conscripts are numbered - it is frustration that they will never

be able to improve their living standards, let alone attain to the riches they can see around them. For the middle classes it is the recognition that any improvements they have experienced in the past will not be repeated. The country's oil revenue has plummeted; tourists have been frightened off by inflation and terrorism. Even government promises of a better life are not heard any more.

The result is a questioning of the fundamentals on which the rule of Sadat and now Hosni Mubarak has been based: in particular, the close relations with the United States, and the Camp David accord with Israel. Both were held up as guarantees of economic prosperity and social equity in the future. To many Egyptians, now, those guarantees look worthless.

American involvement in the Egyptian economy has not brought the riches that were promised. Nor has it solved any of Egypt's social problems. And when the Americans forced down the Egyptian plane carrying the Palestinian hijackers to Libya and freedom, that only confirmed for ordinary Egyptians what they had long suspected: that their country was little more than a colony to the United States, to be treated as a minor irritation, and nothing more.

The consequences of the Camp David accord have aroused similar misgivings. Whatever the letter of the accord, Israel appears to many Egyptians to have betrayed its spirit, by continuing to found

settlements in the occupied West Bank, by maintaining a presence in Southern Lebanon, and by continuing to occupy disputed territory on the Red Sea. In other words, so many Egyptians believe, Egypt ceded its leading position in the Arab world for nothing. President Mubarak has not been able to use his authority to persuade his people of the enormous benefit of peace.

But if the underlying causes of this week's unrest in Egypt are more profound and complex than the sudden and localized mutiny of police conscripts would suggest, so too are the implications, both for the future of Egypt and for the Middle East generally.

For Egypt, continuing instability - and it hard to see how this can be avoided - will only help to strengthen the appeal of groups hostile to President Mubarak. Both Left-wing groups and the Islamic fundamentalists would benefit, and the ascendancy of either would threaten Egypt's existing measure of democracy and its pro-Western stance.

But any change of this order would reach far beyond Egypt's borders. If Egypt returned to the Arab fold - as Syria has appealed to it to do following the unrest this week - this would alter the present political complexion of the Middle East as a whole. It would make Israel's leaders fear even more for their country's security than they do at present and make the Middle East even more volatile than it is already.

New exam

From Mr M. A. Schutzer-Weissmann

Sir, Mr Nash's letter (February 12) about the GCSE examination deserves further attention. While the introduction of the new exams may well be used by some teachers as an occasion for continuing their squabbles against their employers, everyone should be aware that the GCSE exams may do real damage to the whole education system in this country.

Although education in school is not confined within the limits of an exam syllabus, it should be understood that a system of public examination - particularly one specifically intended to have a universal application - has a profound and comprehensive effect on all that is actually taught in our secondary schools.

This, presumably, is the intention. What is likely to be the result? Generations who may possibly acquire some skill in a variety of mathematical methods and technological aptitudes; but who may also be completely ignorant of their culture, literature and history.

It will be quite possible to emerge with distinction from an education crowned by GCSE without ever having read a book or written a page of continuous prose - with little more than a proven aptitude for holding a telephone conversation and filling in a form of complaint (doubtless in a form of adult literacy schemes in one's neighbourhood).

Furthermore, the whole scheme is so thoroughly utilitarian as to defeat its own object: employers cannot be expected to have any clear idea of the abilities guaranteed by GCSE qualifications when those responsible for this exam appear to have only vague ideas of its objectives and insanely confused ideas of its criteria for assessment.

An understandable fear of appearing elitist may have prevented the Headmasters' Conference from raising many objections, but then children at independent schools have less to worry about: GCSE requirements can be more easily adapted to the needs of a proper education within an already established academic framework.

It is children in State schools who are likely to suffer most from an examination system which reduces their education to a satisfaction of the demands that the nation's present economic situation imposes upon them.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. SCHUTZER-WEISSMANN,
Amberley,
The Avenue,
Sherborne, Dorset.

Forgotten disease

From the Director of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship

Sir, Norman Fowler claimed (feature, February 17) that your interviewers were exaggerating the problems of getting treatment for schizophrenia sufferers. Perhaps

he would change his mind if he read only a few of the 10,000 letters from agonised relatives responding to "Zero Options" - the ITV programme on schizophrenia - or heard just a selection of the experiences of our 5,000 members.

I wonder what he would say to the father of a social worker killed by a paranoid schizophrenic who was refused admission to hospital or help from social services? Or to the neighbours of the agonised sufferer who tried to burn the house down?

How would he respond to the ex-psychiatric patients who have their papers marked "D33" or "re-admit under any circumstances", to those who in desperation commit suicide, to the sufferers who sleep rough, or the families who have had 20 years of worry about their children with schizophrenia. All of these were in my mail-bag last week.

Yet with early diagnosis, appropriate medical treatment and flexible supportive community care facilities the outlook for sufferers can be much brighter. We need the £200,000 Norman Fowler mentioned to test the effectiveness of community care, but we also need two billion pounds to provide that care.

Yours faithfully,
JUDY WELEMINSKY, Director,
National Schizophrenia Fellowship,
78 Victoria Road,
Surrey,
February 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping balance on Sunday trade

From the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster

Sir, Having publicly supported the "Keep Sunday Special Campaign", I am particularly sensitive to the charges made by Government apologists in their recent articles in the religious Press that "we Christians are beginning to look like hypocrites".

With remarkable unanimity, the churches are opposed to the Government's plan for complete abolition of the legal framework of Sunday trading. What do we seek? We are not so narrow as to overlook the traditions of different faiths which hold other days as sacred. Nor are we unaware of increasing secularist trends.

Nevertheless, we seek one day of the week which is a holiday in common, free from normal pressures, providing opportunities for rest, recreation, and alternatives in life, amongst them time for reflection and for worship; a psychological space, when families, friends, groups, clubs, localities have an occasion to do things together.

In this country Sunday is the only practical contender at the present time. The Christian holy day has laid the foundation for the holiday which society needs. In the complex and rapidly changing conditions of today, total regulation of Sunday allows holiday and holy day to be broken up to the detriment of both society and Church. Individual time off does not compensate for loss of shared leisure.

Of course, recreation, leisure pursuits and social habits have changed. Sunday occupations may involve purchases, travel, organised recreation, and some systematic and commercial provision of goods and services, to an extent unknown in the past. Some forms of shopping can be a family leisure activity in themselves.

There is a balance to be kept here. The freedom to pursue leisure interests for some involves others in the obligation of work. Seven-day opening by large companies to increase a market share may mean forced opening and loss of business for smaller local shops. New retail outlets create, as well as follow, consumer

Far-away places for EEC milk

From Mrs Susan Shepherd

Sir, Reports of EEC surplus beef being sold to the Soviet Union at silly prices have caused us to wonder about milk powder - source, the Brussels milk lake - now turning up in shops in China.

I have worked in China for four years and have noticed the growing trend among Chinese to enjoy milk and dairy products which, being difficult to produce here, traditionally did not form part of the Chinese diet.

The EEC product, bearing a label, "Specially prepared to comply with the standards of the Ministry of Public Health of the People's Republic of China", is sold at a price equivalent to just over £2 for one 454-gram tin. That is about one tenth of a local monthly wage packet, but the product is popular, even though it can't be bought in local currency, only in hard to come by foreign-exchange certificates.

Are we cynical in thinking the Hong Kong agents who are selling the product to China are creaming off, or is it the State here that is exploiting EEC milk of human kindness?

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN SHEPHERD,
PO Box 557,
Tianjin,
Tanggu,
People's Republic of China,
February 18.

Sources of finance

From Mr John Dodwell

Sir, A recent column by Kenneth Fleet (January 29) mentioned possible areas for revision in the business expansion scheme. I hope that the Government will be extremely careful not to throw out the baby with the bath water.

Undoubtedly a number of changes are needed to the present arrangements - it is ridiculous that there is a last-minute panic to invest before April 5 in each year - but the underlying benefit for new or young businesses should not be ignored.

There is a belief that all new companies require small amounts of capital and I make a plea that larger new companies should not be inhibited.

Our group is currently involved in the launch of a new company seeking about £1.5 million from the public, which will generate 40 jobs - considerably more than most new companies create within their first five years.

Kenneth Fleet also suggests that the Government should review whether the business expansion scheme is providing money for areas which other sources will finance anyway. It is our painful experience that many City institutions will not support new businesses, even where substantial sums of money are needed, and the business expansion scheme is the last resort for the required capital.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DODWELL,
Chancery Securities plc,
12 Northington Street, WC1,
February 26.

Ancient and modern

From Mr Jack Sykes

Sir, This is not the first letter written to you by an 84-year-old reader but I would be interested to learn whether it is the first using a word processor? My purpose in writing is to encourage fellow citizens of either sex to have a go and not to be put to shame by the sight of young children nonchalantly poking a finger at a computer keyboard.

I am proposing to close up the two ends of my car port and convert it into a computer room as soon as planning permission can be obtained.

Yours etc,
J. SYKES,
7 Hill Top,
Lingards,
Slough,
Huddersfield,
West Yorkshire,
February 22.

Called into service

From the Reverend Roger Thacker

Sir, For some, privatisation and diversification are accepted political shibboleths. I found this well illustrated by the mass delivery in the Marble Arch area of the new confetti-like pink-and-white coloured Telecom directories.

They were being distributed from a large white pantechonion boldly inscribed "The French Croissant Company Limited".

Yours,
ROGER THACKER,
St Paul's Church,
Queen Caroline Street, W6,
February 19.

Arms for Uganda

From Dr M. Louise Piouret

Sir, When Milton Obote was ousted from power in Uganda last year, Britain suspended military training for the Uganda Army and sought to promote peace and an end to the civil war which had rent the country since 1981.

There were other good reasons for suspending military aid: the outcome of the war was uncertain and the Uganda Army was wholly discredited by reason of its indiscipline and the mayhem and looting which had become its hallmarks, as well as its systematic use of torture, which had been exposed by Amnesty International. Besides, it was clear that, in spite of a change of regime, violations of human rights were continuing unabated.

We now learn from today's Times (February 19) that although official military training had ceased, the British Government seems to have approved the employment by the Uganda Army of Defence Systems Ltd, a British company which, we are told, does not operate abroad without the knowledge and approval of Whitehall. Defence Systems Ltd was apparently called in when an Italian company refused to fit out helicopters as gunships.

No doubt the reason why the

British Government condoned this company's involvement was that they were making money, boosting Britain's exports. But to do so in such a situation not only displays the uncaring face of capitalism, but suggests a measure of cynicism about the peace negotiations.

Indeed, these failed and the National Resistance Movement, against whose forces British military aid was used, is now the government in power.

Mrs Lynde Chalker has done well to have succeeded in restoring a measure of confidence between the new Uganda Government and Britain in spite of this incident and other questionable aspects of Britain's recent dealings with Uganda.

Less diplomacy might have been needed if respect for human rights had been placed higher up our foreign policy agenda, and commercialism reduced to more proper proportions.

The incident also highlights the need for legislation which will place tighter controls on the export of military expertise as well as of arms, defence technology and surveillance equipment.

Yours sincerely,
M. LOUISE PIROUET,
8 GLOUCESTER STREET,
Cambridge,
February 19.

Nuclear safety

From Dr C. H. Neville-Smith

Sir, One reason why spokesmen for nuclear power have lost credibility is that the statements they propagate are often found some time later to have been wholly inaccurate. Mr Allday, writing his centre-page article for The Times on February 20, is no exception. He states (para 5) that "uranium is the commonest element in the earth's crust" and so, he implies, harmless to mankind.

In point of fact oxygen is the commonest element of the earth's crust, followed by silicon, aluminium, iron, calcium and

sodium. Uranium is quite a rare element, with workable deposits sprinkled thinly over the face of the globe.

Further, Mr Allday is oddly reticent about the composition of those 400kg of uranium that were discharged into the Irish Sea. What proportion of this effluent was the relatively stable isotope U238, and how much of the far more fissile and dangerous U235? Those living up-tide from Sellafield might well like to know.

Yours faithfully,
C. H. NEVILLE-SMITH,
7 Princes Road,
Salisbury-by-the-Sea,
February 21.

Obscenity and law

From Mr D. J. Marks

Sir, I normally admire and value the balance and good sense of your leading articles. Yesterday's (February 24) gave an unpleasant jolt to this esteem.

Reduced to its crude basis, what you are saying is that the need to shield the developing young from overplayed, unbalanced and false impressions of real life is simply a factor to be traded against "the rise of the cultural industries" -

leaving it to parents to struggle with the problem unaided.

Hard pressed we may be to promote industrial recovery - but to what end if we corrupt our national life in the process?

Yours faithfully,
D. J. MARKS,
Diton Close,
Wants Road,
Thames Ditton,
Surrey,
February 25.

Lenten framework

From the Acting Headmaster of St Benedict's School, Ealing

Sir, Clifford Longley ("Frail framework of Lent", February 17) writes, "it is medieval Christianity which is relevant to the popular practice of 'giving something up for Lent'". He also makes the valid point that a period of self-denial is popularly recognised today as beneficial, independently of formal church allegiance. As some today are wont to eschew all things "medieval" as accretions, it might be helpful to point to the origins of this "medieval principle of self-denial".

Way back in the days of the Didache (?AD70 - ?AD150) we find the author insisting on a period of fasting before baptism.

This was still the practice cAD215/218 when Hippolytus was writing his *Apostolic Tradition*.

A strange nun from the fourth century provides us with further evidence in the *Travels of Egeria* (perhaps better known to classical readers as an example of degenerate Latin) we read how in Jerusalem, AD370, the 40 days' period of preparation for converts who were to be baptised at the Easter Vigil was now being observed by all.

Perhaps one of the most formative books on the spirituality of Medieval Christianity was the *Rule of St Benedict* (written early sixth century). In his chapter on "The Observance of Lent" he says that the life of a monk should

always be lenten in character, but as few are strong enough to manage this, we recommend all during these days of Lent to keep their life perfectly pure and to wash away the negligences of other times during these holy days. This is worthily done if we keep ourselves free from faults, and apply ourselves to prayer with tears... Therefore during these days let us add a little to our usual round of service by way of private devotion and abstinence from food and drink... all the while looking forward to the Easter festival with joyous spiritual longing.

Yours faithfully,
GREGORY CHILLMAN,
Religious Studies Department,
St Benedict's School,
Ealing, W5,
February 21.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 1 1850

Don Pacifico was a Gibraltar-born British subject who brought a claim of about £25,000 compensation against the Greek government for one of his dogs of his house during anti-Semitic riots in 1847. In a belligerent mood Lord Palmerston (1784-1865), who was running the Foreign Office almost as his private concern, using the threat of naval units which had been moved to the Dardanelles in 1849 as a precautionary measure of support for Turkey, demanded that payment be made to Pacifico and others.

[DON PACIFICO]

Of the more novel branches of industry which modern ingenuity has brought to perfection, that of the professional claimant on foreign Governments would seem to be the most attractive; and in the ranks of those fortunate and unblinking speculators who practise it with élan Don PACIFICO of Athens claims an illustrious pre-eminence. All that is required to start in this business is to have undergone a little destruction, and to retain a vast deal of impotency. Be prepared with half-a-dozen national characters, in which you may figure like the late Mr. MATTHEWS at one of his entertainments; crouch like a Jew, threaten like a Spaniard, cheat like a Portuguese, rail like a Frenchman, swear like a German, bully like an Englishman. It will be hard indeed if wrongs that speak so many languages are not understood; but they will stand the more chance of profitable redress when they are backed by competent allegations of personal antipathy and political resentment... Don PACIFICO represents them with equal variety, not in their rights, but in their injuries. The very domestic utensils of his dwelling have a national susceptibility in them... You see in him [Pacifico] a manifestation of the occult government of the world. Abroad, you would scarce have met a needier man in Athens - within his chambers you would find the furniture of palaces and the ornaments of the great; - but, above all, in a few scattered leaves of fumbled paper there lay the grand *arcum* of the PORTUGUESE CLAIMS. You imagine they are as worthless as the dead leaves of the magician's casket, but they are bearing interest at a higher rate than you can count. You know that Portugal recognises no such demands, which Dom MIGUEL, Portugal will not be troubled with them, for Greece is to pay them. Therein lies the grandeur of Don PACIFICO's invention. Other men have sometimes transferred their liabilities; he transfers his active claims. Let him but set foot on your territory, and before the year is out you may owe him half a million instead of the GRAND SEIGNIOR or the POPE. When one considers the imaginary quantities he is dealing with, one is as much astonished at his modesty as at his address; but he might just as well have contained the national debt of a German principality, the repudiated bonds of Mississippi, or the crown of Hungary. Whatever it contained, was not there; so Greece must pay for all, and a bill is drawn in full on the Treasury of Athens.

Thus far the enterprise might have been carried by a more vulgar practitioner; but the art of Don PACIFICO had far greater resources in store. What he now required was to bring a British fleet of seven line-of-battle ships and six steamers of gigantic power, with their 7,000 fighting men, their cannon, and all the mighty apparatus of naval war, to give a little reality to those obsolete or unacknowledged bits of lost paper. His little bill was good enough, but its value mainly depended on the names on the back of it. The drawers, might as well have the world with as little confidence as the drawers, but in a generous hour that same bill was endorsed by Lord PALMERSTON in the name of England...

Disabled drivers

From Dr Gerald Michael

Sir, A 60-year-old lady came to see me this week. She and her husband have been patients of mine since 1963.

She has some difficulty in walking - she nowhere near fills the criteria, however, for an orange badge for disabled drivers, but she and her husband genuinely feel she does.

It would have been absolutely impossible to have refused this request which would have appeared to have been a total rejection of them, and therefore I agreed. Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence and many people are driving round with orange badges who are not substantially disabled.

I suggest that certificates for disabled badges should be given only by independent doctors and never by the patient's own GP. I realise they would have to pay a fee for this but I am sure they would feel it was worth while.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD MICHAEL,
23 Trelawn Park,
Mill Hill, NW7,
February 19.

Meaningful terms

From Mrs Antony Jones

Sir, On the outskirts of Oxford one sees signs to a Public Waste Reception Centre. In Berkshire, close to our village, the same convenience is signed Public Rubbish Dump.

Yours truly,
HARRIET JONES,
Meadow House,
Ashford Hill,
Newbury, Berkshire.

FOOTBALL: HOW THE GAME CAN AVOID THE WINTER OF DISCONTENT

Why clubs should turn up the heat and keep on the grass

The disclosure yesterday that the anti-plastic lobby are pressing for a total ban on artificial surfaces was one event which would have benefited from a postponement. With the pools panel sitting for the fourth successive week and many clubs faced with serious cash flow problems because of frozen pitches it was not the smartest time to start knocking nice, playable plastic.

Ninety five per cent of Football League clubs must be wishing right now that they could look forward with confidence to a fixture today as do Luton Town who receive Sheffield Wednesday on the green, green plastic of their Kenilworth Road ground. Having said that three clubs today will provide proof that the real thing can still see off its modern adversary if properly equipped.

The inexpensive underseal heating at Goodison Park, Maine Road and Boundary Park will ensure that the matches of Everton (v Aston Villa), Manchester City (v Oxford United) and Oldham Athletic (v Millwall) go ahead at minimum expense. Everton's system cost £58,000 to install and has a life expectancy of 20 years.

It is optimistic of recovering from injury as are, coincidentally, two others. Lineker and Van den Hauwe who were both unable to serve out a suspension and misses an emotional return to Goodison. It gives Stainer, their top scorer, the chance again to stake a claim which once encompassed international honours with England. One Everton player, Reid, who was unable to add to his midweek because of injury, is optimistic of recovering from injury as are, coincidentally, two others.

SKIING: WEST GERMAN SUCCESS IN WORLD CUP SUPER GIANT SLALOM



Going downhill fast: Zurbriggen on his way to a convincing victory yesterday

Zurbriggen races to convincing victory

Hemsedal (Reuter) Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland raced to victory in a demanding men's World Cup super giant slalom yesterday in 1 min 37.44 sec, beating Markus Wasmeier of West Germany by 0.18 of a second.

Wasmeier, who heads the super giant slalom World Cup standings, and Zurbriggen completed the course more than a second ahead of Leonhard Stock of Austria, who was third in 1:38.72.

The race was a triumph for West Germany who finished with three competitors in the top six. Herbert Renoth was fourth and Hans Stuffer, who finished second on Thursday in a giant slalom here, again performed impressively to finish sixth.

On a very steep course, which lessened the chances of slalom technicians such as Ingemar Stenmark, winner of a giant slalom here on Thursday, racers tucked into downhill skiing positions as soon as they left the starting box.

RESULTS: 1. P. Zurbriggen (Switz) 1:37.44; 2. M. Wasmeier (West Ger) 1:38.62; 3. L. Stock (Austria) 1:38.72; 4. H. Renoth (West Ger) 1:39.77; 5. M. Stuffer (Austria) 1:40.00; 6. H. Stuffer (West Ger) 1:40.18; 7. R. Mitterer (West Ger) 1:40.41; 8. A. Wenzel (Austria) 1:40.59; 9. R. Pramoner (West Ger) 1:40.85; 10. H. Stuffer (West Ger) 1:40.92; 11. G. Mauer (Austria) 1:41.00; 12. G. Mauer (Austria) 1:41.00; 13. M. Marzola (Italy) 1:41.00.

FURANO (Reuter) - Maria Walliser and Brigitte Oertli gave little comfort to the rival Swiss women's World Cup team yesterday with confident practice performances for today's downhill race in the Japanese resort.

The race marks the resumption of women's competition after a pause of nearly three weeks. The Swiss were the dominant force before the break and Walliser, the overall World Cup leader ahead of four of her competitors, showed yesterday that none of the edge has gone from her skiing by producing the third fastest time of 1 min 21.55sec behind Oertli (1:21.40) and Olga Charvatova (1:21.52).

SNOOKER Fortune smiles on Davis Steve Davis edged 4-3 ahead against Alex Higgins in their Dulux British Open semi-final in Derby yesterday. Davis drew first blood with a break of 30 to take the first of the 17 scheduled frames 76-30.

Higgins, drinking lager, instead of milk that had led to Davis calling him The Milky Bar Kid, counterattacked immediately with breaks of 46 and 30 to charge through the second game 76-0 and then fought back from 48-0 down in the third to force 2-1 ahead. Davis levelled at 2-2 before moving 40-1 up in the fifth.

Higgins rallied and then rattled home a break of 30 before missing to leave the fight hanging over the top right-hand pocket. Allowing Davis in for a 34 clearance to the pink, Higgins parried the thrust by recovering again to 3-3 but was unlucky in the seventh. He watched in horror as Davis first fluked a snooker behind the blue with two reds left and then later fluked the yellow to win the last frame of the session 30-0.

The winner tackles Willie Thorne in 10, Thorne's fight for the £55,000 first prize.

NORDIC SKIING Bronze for Britain Martin Watkins led the British to another team bronze medal in the 30 kilometre race which brought the Lowlanders championships to a conclusion at Oslo yesterday.

Louise Maczie did likewise for the women in their 10km event; but nothing could stop the French, the tall, bearded Eric Vuurs gathering another gold, his time of 37 min 11 sec being more than three minutes faster than anyone else, and Valerie Laurent leaving the other women struggling.

The Lowlanders contest is confined to countries or regions which have snow for less than two months of the year.

RESULTS: Women's 10km: 1. V. Laurent (Fr) 36:13; 2. M. Guldvald (Nor) 36:47; 3. E. Vuurs (Nld) 37:11; 4. M. Maczie (GB) 37:44; 5. A. Vuurs (Nld) 38:21; 6. S. O'Malley (Ire) 38:22; 7. J. Holmoy (Nor) 38:44; 8. E. Vuurs (Nld) 38:53; 9. K. Hansen (Den) 39:04; 10. A. Heilmann (Ger) 39:50; 11. M. Maczie (GB) 40:00; 12. M. Maczie (GB) 40:00; 13. M. Maczie (GB) 40:00; 14. M. Maczie (GB) 40:00; 15. M. Maczie (GB) 40:00; 16. M. Maczie (GB) 40:00; 17. M. Maczie (GB) 40:00; 18. M. Maczie (GB) 40:00; 19. M. Maczie (GB) 40:00; 20. M. Maczie (GB) 40:00.

GOLF Sixes and sevens for Oosty

For the first time in the eight tournaments played on the American tour so far, there was a strong likelihood of there being European in the qualifying field at the halfway stage of the Honda Classic in the very difficult and long, Eagle Trace course in hot windy conditions at Coral Springs on the edge of the Everglades.

Each of the three Britons experienced problems other than those of the usual miggling difficulties of this frustrating and awkward individual game.

Sandy Lyle was robbed in his hotel room of \$3,000 in travellers' cheques and a \$2,000 special cheque-proof wrist watch.

Ken Brown and his wife Dawn suffered rather similarly in Honolulu a fortnight ago when their passports, credit cards and about \$1,000 cash was stolen, and the echoes of this setback were apparent in the Scot's disappointing 78.

In this wealthier of countries, nothing is more difficult than to get banks to the purse strings (they say it is all in your own interests) and consequently the Browns are short of ready cash to pay their British caddy and to meet other expenses.

Peter Oosterhuis, whose card of 80 contained two sevens and three sixes, is finding out again how it feels to be under the pressures of qualifying. "Oosty" did not finish in the leading 125 last year and so has to wait for sponsors' invitations.

Scores generally were very high with Jack Nicklaus taking 73 and experienced former tournament winners such as Woody Blackburn and D. A. Weir taking 81. Winds gusting up to 25 mph and the artificial lakes guarding the greens and fairways caught any but the perfectly-hit, Lyle and Oosterhuis each sent three tee-shots into the water.

First round leader Kenny Knox grew up in North Florida and so knows all about these local conditions. He putted brilliantly on his way to a 66, two ahead of the 50-year old Chi Chi Rodriguez and young Bill Glasson, with Edwin Fiori and Andy Bean not far away.

Pierre Fehlmann, skipper of UBS Switzerland, the current leader on the third stage of the Whitbread round the world yacht race, was jubilantly claiming a new noon-to-noon sailing record yesterday after his 80 foot maxi had covered 360 miles, an average of 15 knots.

The Swiss yacht, which also leads the race on total elapsed time, holds a 60-mile lead over Atlantic Privateer, in second place, a near sister-ship skippered by Peter Kuttel, of South Africa and was hopeful yesterday of rounding Cape Horn late tomorrow night (Sun).

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Hearts' secret

Certainly, Hearts have been fortunate in that they have had to make few changes in the start of their season. They have avoided missing games despite the severe winter. "We are working harder than ever, now that the Aberdeen game has been cancelled, to ensure that our ground is cleared of snow for the game with St Mirren," MacDonald said. And adhering to this theory of continuity, he said that Hearts will field the team which gained one of the best results of the season last week, a draw with Celtic at Parkhead.

He will not, however, be treating the errant St Mirren lightly. Just before Hearts began their run, which saw them surge almost from the bottom to the top of the division, they were trounced 6-2 by their opponents of today.

The postponement of Scotland's match of the day, between Aberdeen and Dundee United, because of a snowfall, has given the league leaders, Heart of Midlothian, added incentive to try to make Tynecastle playable for their match this afternoon with St Mirren.

Not only would victory put Hearts again four points clear at the top of the premier division, it would enable them to equal the record for an unbeaten run set by Rangers 10 years ago. One of the players in the Rangers side which played 21 games without defeat was Alex MacDonald, the Hearts manager, who said yesterday that it was from the feat of his former team that he had discovered what appears to be the secret of football success. "It is simply that a settled side wins the honours," he said. "With one addition, a touch of luck."

While Hinault was winning his two races in Spain last month, Liverpool rider Joey McLaughlin and brother-in-law Phil Thomas were showing good form for the ANC-Halfords team on the French Riviera.

A fifth place for McLaughlin at Cannes and a sixth for Thomas in Antibes prove that they are both ready for their home-town race tomorrow. Their Sheffield team-mate Malcolm Elliott waits in the wings with his powerful sprint that almost overcame world number one, Kelly, two weeks ago at Albiac, Spain.

Kelly is already in winning form and is the obvious favourite to win Paris-Nice for the fifth successive year.

After nearly a month of preparatory events in France, Spain and Italy, professional cyclists metaphorically take off their gloves this weekend for the year's first major road races.

While today the five-time Tour de France champion Bernard Hinault, twice winner of the grand prix and men like Robert Millar, Phil Anderson and Sean Kelly set out on the eight-day Paris-Nice race with a five-mile time trial between Bercy and Vincennes.

The winner of the past two editions of the Het Volk classic, Eddy Planckaert of Belgium, is expected to complete a treble in a race that loops through the Flemish hills from Ghent, although Hinault's participation gives the race a glitter it normally lacks.

While Hinault was winning his two races in Spain last month, Liverpool rider Joey McLaughlin and brother-in-law Phil Thomas were showing good form for the ANC-Halfords team on the French Riviera.

JUDO Gordon's chance

While there can be few doubts that the European bronze medal winner, Elvis Gordon, of Wolverhampton, has all the makings of a European heavyweight champion, the question remains whether he can discard the bronze medal mentality that has limited his progress so far.

He is given another opportunity to make progress in Budapest today in the heavyweight category of the Hungarian Cup when he meets strong opposition from the Soviet Union, East Germany, Hungary and France.

He has to overcome a basic lack of faith in himself which was evident in his last two internationals - in Paris where the Frenchman, Christian Vachon, won a tactical battle, and in the European team championships where he threw the Soviet European

CYCLING Hinault's glitter

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HOCKEY Eligibility debate

The competitions committee of the Hockey Association need to review the rules on the eligibility of players representing more than one club during the same indoor season. A few complaints were heard when the final stages of the Royal Bank indoor club championship began at the Michael Sobell Sports Centre yesterday.

The squad of 12 players announced by Sturport for the competition included Ken Partington and Imran Sherwan, both of whom played for Slough this season in the Truman indoor league. Slough won the title for the tenth year in succession.

The winner of the local afternoon second round match against Old Kingstonians on March 8, probably at Neasden. If they win, they will play their third round match against Hounslow the following morning.

YACHTING Claiming a record

Pierre Fehlmann, skipper of UBS Switzerland, the current leader on the third stage of the Whitbread round the world yacht race, was jubilantly claiming a new noon-to-noon sailing record yesterday after his 80 foot maxi had covered 360 miles, an average of 15 knots.

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FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND OTHER WEEKEND FIXTURES

Table of football fixtures including Scottish second division, Vauxhall Open League, and Scottish premier division.

Table of rugby fixtures including Great Hills Western League, London Spartan League, and International fixtures.

TOMORROW

Table of tomorrow's fixtures including Football, Rugby League, and Rugby Union.

OXFORD TORPIDS

Table of Oxford Torpids fixtures including Weather wins again and For the Record.

NORDIC SKIING

Table of Nordic Skiing fixtures including Bronze for Britain and OLYMPIC GAMES.

CRICKET: WEARY ENGLAND GREETED BY PROTESTS AND RAIN

Delay is an omen for Gooch

The England team turned up at the Queen's Park Oval here yesterday morning for the start of their three-day match against Trinidad to find half a dozen demonstrators awaiting them. When rain stopped play after an hour's play, some 50 of them were gathered across the road from the main gate chanting anti-apartheid slogans. England at the time were 37 for no wickets.

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Trinidad

awkwardly at Gooch, two of which he edged low through the slips for four. The pitch was sufficiently well grassed for Nanan, Trinidad's one Test player, to put England in, but it was not fast. Gomes and Logie, the two Trinidadian batsmen, were missing. Gomes took a rest and Logie because of a stomach ailment.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND: First Innings

G A Gooch not out	25	
R T Robinson not out	15	
Extras (no wicket)		36
Total (no wicket)		56

TRINIDAD: First Innings

N Gomes	0	
A Rajah	1	
D J Mohammed	1	
M Bodoo	1	
H Ramnarain	1	
D Williams	1	
A H Gray	1	
Extras		1
Total		7



Demonstrators line the way as England's cricketers arrive

Border and Waugh keep Hadlee at bay

Christchurch (Agence)—An unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 150 between Allan Border and Steven Waugh rescued Australia on the first day of the second Test match against New Zealand here yesterday.

The pair came together shortly after lunch with Australia struggling at 74 for five after an opening burst by the New Zealand fast bowler, Hadlee, and they took the score to 224 for five at the close. Border, the Australian captain, was 84 not out, and Waugh, aged 20, whose previous best score in three Test matches was 13, 63 not out.

Nicholas calls for more tours abroad by B teams

Mark Nicholas yesterday urged the Test and County Cricket Board (CCB) to send future England B teams abroad. Nicholas spoke forcibly in favour of the tour to Sri Lanka in which all five unofficial Test matches were drawn.

On his arrival back at Heathrow airport, Nicholas said: "There is enormous value to be gained from these tours with the right structure. I shall certainly be advocating their continuation in future years."

The Worcestershire wicket-keeper, Rhodes, was the unqualified success of the tour. Rhodes averaged 48.66 in the first-class matches, as well as being an inspiration behind the stumps.

Nicholas said: "The outstanding plus was Rhodes without question. He is the most outstanding young cricketer I have played with or against, since I began playing cricket in England."

Rhodes was, however, involved in a flare-up in the final unofficial Test when he was convicted that he had caught the century-maker, Tilderkraze, off Lawrence.

Kent profit cut

Kent County Cricket Club's annual report, to be presented to members at this month's annual meeting, reveals a net surplus of £1,709 last year compared with £3,761 the previous year. The county's own trading resulted in a deficit of about £218,000 but this was offset by their share of money received from the Test and County Cricket Board of just over £200,000.

22-yard pitch remains in favour

England's batting problems against the ferocious West Indian pace attack have once again raised the question whether the traditional 22-yard cricket pitch should be lengthened. Those in favour of extending the pitch, perhaps to 22 metres (22yds 2in) argue that batsmen would have more time to focus on the ball. Injuries, therefore, such as the recent one to Mike Gatting, might be avoided.

Self-interest never far away

Before the 1744 laws the length of the pitch tended to vary in different parts of the country but 22 yards became the most commonly accepted measurement. It was almost certainly derived from the old fashioned chain measurement then used in agriculture. If 22 metres is considered too drastic an increase, some people feel a start could be made by amending the

TENNIS: BECKER RECEIVES SIXTH WARNING



Boris Becker, the reigning Wimbledon champion, is seen in action during his third-round victory over José Higueras in La Quinta, California (Richard Evans writes).

For the fifth time in five matches in the United States, Becker was officially warned under the "no coaching rule" and after the game said he felt his coach, Gunter Bosch felt they were being victimized.

Later in the day Becker was warned a sixth time while partnering Slobodan Zivkovic. When Tlac

Hutchings marginal favourite

The English senior cross-country championships on Newcastle's Town Moor this afternoon should be the most open and exciting race for some years, with the 1983 champion, Tim Hutchings, assisting a marginal favourite in the absence of Lewis, last year's winner.

Lewis has won the two big English domestic races this winter, and has opted to miss today's "national" and rely on getting one of the three places in the world cross-country team that the selectors now leave open.

Jones cashes in on Boston offer

Steve Jones, the world's leading marathon runner, has accepted what is believed to be the biggest ever appearance money offer, £100,000 (£67,500), to compete in the Boston Marathon on April 21, which means that he will not be defending his London title the previous day.

Paris takes a noble attitude to Games

Paris - To inflame the global awareness of their bid to host the 1992 Olympic Games, the Paris committee is inviting 100 foreign journalists with experience of big events to spend two days inspecting their planned facilities in a month's time. They are well aware that, with the bids formally lodged with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday, the heat is now on.

Yet their offer of free accommodation to all competitors at the Paris village is possibly misguided. Birmingham are prepared to offer the same, but have been advised that the IOC consider this can encourage Olympic "tourism". Nevertheless, I found Alain Danet, the executive president of the Paris committee, in an optimistic mood in his offices at the Racing Club de France this week, even if beneath the surface there are some problems for the French candidacy.

ATHLETICS

Cram will not chance his slender legs in a race, which he was only ever going to treat as an extended training run.

The real opposition for Hutchings will come from Roger Hackney, Earnon Martin and Steve Harris, with Steve Binns, Dave Clarke, Billy Dee, Dave Murphy and Jon Richards, all in with a strong chance of finishing a team that should finally be fit to challenge the Ethiopians for the world title next month.

Hackney, who won this year's Belfast race from the Paris winner, Rousseau, is in an invidious position today. For he could become English champion and not go to Neuchatel. Although Hackney lives in and competes for Aldershot, he has run for Wales in the past. But having missed the world championship for the last four years, the selectors have responded by not selecting him for their world championship team.

Manager dismisses Cheltenham doubts

weather's forecast, there is little prospect of racing making an immediate resumption. Stewards at Windsor and Leicester, where racing is due to take place on Monday, are holding inspections today at noon and 2pm respectively.

Nick Lees, the clerk of the course at Leicester, said: "Frankly, we need a miracle to save our final jumping meeting. It is not clear that eight of our 11 days this season will have been abandoned, making it our worst winter."

New dates for point-to-points

The state of the ground on all the courses where point-to-points were scheduled for today was such that none survived after inspections yesterday (Brian Bell writes). This makes a total of 30 meetings out of 33 either postponed or abandoned this season.

New dates confirmed are: March 8: Hursley Hambleton; West Percy, March 10; Bicester and Warden, March 15; Mid Ferry Farm, Oxford, March 16; City, April 5; West Shropshire, April 26; Mendip Farmers.

DAVID MILLER

SOFTEN RACKETS: Squash has been dropped to the Olympic movement, but its inclusion does not mean it will be part of the Games programme in the near future. Official recognition has been given to the International Squash Rackets Federation since 1967 with the exception of the British Open, which has 56 nations and eight continents.

No plans at present to alter law that has stood since 1744

bowling the ball at speeds reaching 90mph, faster than ever before. It must be remembered, too, that the distance from the ball leaving the bowler's hand, to where the batsman walks, is usually nearer 20 yards than 22.

Jon Henderson, a former Reuters cricket correspondent, once calculated that a batsman can 0.455sec to react over 20 yards against a 90 mph ball. The time it takes to react over 20 metres is 0.497sec over 20 metres. In this context the additional 9.23 per cent more time for a batsman's reflexes to react is significant.

RACING: LITTLE HOPE OF IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION BUT NATIONAL HUNT FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS REMAIN OPTIMISTIC

Pebbles given star billing in annual review

By Michael Phillips

While the cold weather has stopped the valuable and often informative *Timeform* Chase from being run again at Haydock Park today, nothing I am glad to say, has prevented the same stable's annual review of the Flat season from appearing on the bookshelf.

While some will regard £49.75 as a lot to spend on any book, let alone a specialist subject, the qualification does not apply to *Racehorses of 1985* which has been published today. For, like its predecessors, this latest volume is a world leader in its field.

Manager dismisses Cheltenham doubts

1,000 Guineas, Baiser Volé (winner of Prix Robert Papin and Prix de La Salamandre). Taking everything into consideration we believe that with another year over her head, Baiser Volé will probably stay a mile and could well follow in Ma Biche's example in the Guineas.

Manager dismisses Cheltenham doubts

weather's forecast, there is little prospect of racing making an immediate resumption. Stewards at Windsor and Leicester, where racing is due to take place on Monday, are holding inspections today at noon and 2pm respectively.

Guy Harwood, trainer of Bakharoff, who Timeform say may be the first Futurity winner to triumph at Epsom



Manager dismisses Cheltenham doubts



Manager dismisses Cheltenham doubts



RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND AND IRELAND HOPE TO SALVAGE SOMETHING - WALES'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE CHANCES CAN BRING VICTORY

Cold may limit kickers and pitch suggests forward domination

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Once the decision to play today's Save and Prosper International between England and Ireland had been taken yesterday, the thought inevitably arose as to whether it would be one of England's Jekyll or Hyde days. We have had one of each so far this season and, amid the freezing easterlies which will buffet Twickenham today, it would be a warning thought to know that England will play with the spirit which typified their win over Wales in January.

Both countries have played well in parts this season, yet here are Ireland with two defeats under their belt and the five nations championship gone all but mathematically. England, after their brave start, reacted to defeat against Scotland by making wholesale changes which may make it difficult to collect the threads together.

When you mix in the wind which will probably dominate the game and ensure that it is played almost completely under the West Stand - the area of the ground which has taken the most unflattering - and Ireland's ill-fortune when they had to make a line change to their side yesterday, then any predictions can go out of the window.

England trained at the Bank of England ground yesterday and Ireland indoors at St Paul's School, Barnes, neither team knowing whether the game would go ahead. Officials from both countries inspected the playing surface shortly after 1pm, among them Des McKibbin, President of the Irish Rugby Union, the secretary of both Unions and Clive Norling, the match referee and the man who can decide, after today's game has started, how soon it will stop.

Michael Weston, chairman of the England selectors, described the playing surface as 50 per cent better than on Thursday, but work will go on until midday today when the covers will be removed. The only playing criterion in such cases is whether there is any danger to the players and it becomes obvious during the game that icy patches are forming. I have no doubt that Mr Norling will call matters to a halt.

England have made discreet inquiries about whether sand or sawdust can be made available to help the goal-kickers, something which Law 13 allows only under exceptional circumstances. But even the most accurate of kickers may find conditions trying, so who knows, we may have a game decided on tries.

Both sides will welcome a referee whose decisions will be made manifest. Ireland have been handled by an Australian and an Englishman, England by an Australian and a New Zealander this season and the differences they encountered lend point to the plea made on Thursday evening at the Rugby Writers' Club dinner by Michael Doyle, the Irish coach, who is desperate for simplicity and uniformity of approach in the laws.

Doyle and Martin Green, his English counterpart,

played in the same Cambridge University side in 1965, both in the back row which is the area where, I imagine, today's game will be won and lost. England have reshaped their and will have no idea how it will gell until some way into the game. Much will depend on how Rees and Winterbottom adapt to the demands of playing left and right.

England played two open-side flankers in two tour matches in New Zealand last summer, an experiment which worked in the first match but not in the second. But Rees is a half-playing forward and Richards an effective support player. It would be no surprise to see a lot of close support work between half backs and back row since passing will be a risky business in the conditions.

The leadership of England's pack has passed from Brian to Colclough who must ensure that the bigger home forwards give Ireland a testing time. The Irish lost Kearney yesterday when he woke up with a strained hamstring, he is replaced by Mcrow, the Bangor back row man who won a cap against France last month.

Ireland's back division is a known and threatening quantity. England's less so, particularly in view of the fact that many of the players have not had a game of rugby for several weeks outside of internationals. Clough's praises in the centre have long been sung in the North but we may not see the best of him or any other three-quarter today as a constructive attacking force because I think conditions will enforce a forward-dominated game.

It is no use pretending that it will be easy to play an expansive game whatever the wishes of players, coaches or crowd. The weather will see to that. For England it is much like beginning the season all over again, settling in the new men, doing the basics correctly, dusting off the psychological cobwebs of their disastrous last outing at Murrayfield.

Ireland need to convince themselves that all of last season's achievements are not completely lost. Five of England's side today were not involved against Wales, only six weeks ago, even as replacements. I have no qualms therefore about inviting readers to select their own winner and bear in mind that it might be the weather.

Cup inertia

Saracens have been forced to postpone their John Player Special Cup fourth round tie against Gloucester at the third time. The game had been rearranged for tomorrow, but the Southgate pitch is still frozen. No new date has yet been agreed.



Men of decision at Twickenham: Clive Norling (far left), the referee, and Bob Weighill (far right), secretary of the RFU, inspect the pitch with other officials. Photograph: Harry Kerr

Welsh can win with their wits

By Gerald Davies

France do not travel well to Cardiff. That much has to be said. Although they won two years ago, it needed all the nous and experience of a much travelled campaigner (not to mention his deep-rooted ambitious personal reasons), Jean-Pierre Rives, to focus the energies of the other 14 players in an absolutely the right direction.

The victory had taken a long time in coming the time before that was 1968. More than any other side they perform indifferently away from home, which is one reason we should not presume too much of them in the World Cup next year. For now, it is a mixed reception in Cardiff the passionate heat of a home crowd who are beginning to think that this season may be the start of something big (well, biggest anyway) in contrast to the chill wind which will blow and has been blowing for the last month and which has bitten deeply into the Arms Park turf.

If it is remarkable that Wales find, at this stage, that they are involved in some kind of championship decider, it is just as remarkable that this game should be played at all. It will not be exactly comfortable out there this afternoon; nor will it be that much better for the spectator.

If the sweet-smelling whiff of the championship has never left Frenchmen's nostrils, the Welsh team, after several years in no-man's land flitting even on their patch, are once more getting a sniff, however delicately or distantly, of something more potent in the air than the immediate result.

Their position is blatantly convincing about the challenge. No doubt some of the players will wake up this morning feeling pleasantly surprised at the prospects ahead, which once had been so bleak and unpromising. Without really ever establishing their authority, they have been borne aloft by the kind of confidence that comes

from knowing that whatever they achieve will be a bonus to what was originally expected. Welsh weaknesses as forward are still there, although there has been some improvement since Twickenham, but so are there strengths in the back division. They have survived on their wits, which is just as good a way as any to survive and quite often infinitely more exciting.

Once it was the French style too, but under their coach, Fouroux, whether by chance or design, they prefer to plan well in advance. Only then do they find, usually too late, that the game plan, as originally envisaged, needed to be changed.

It is based on their heavy-weight pack, and making heavy weather of matters; it is the likes of Blanco and Sella who remind us of the great charm of French rugby, and prove it to be their winning ways too. So it was against Ireland that they laboured for most of the game only to let their hair down at the end to gain a substantial victory.

Charvet and Bonnevial, appearing for the first time in the five nations championship, may be part of that style. They scored all five tries in their club's win over Toulon in last year's French championship. Charvet is a stern tackle, too, and there to counter the mid-field threat posed by Deveraux who has twice now, orchestrated by Davies with Bowen as decoy, created tries by his powerful running.

Dubroca, persuaded by Fouroux, will lead the charge from the front where they took the Irish to the cleaners, an exercise they could well repeat against Wales who are vulnerable in the scrums. Though Wales have improved here, as they have done steadily in the line-out, it is a fragile confidence. With the immense height advantage of Erbani, Joinel and Champ at the back of the line-out, it is Waters who needs a good game and to curb the threat of Condom in the middle.

The signs are that France are simply too powerful at forward for Wales to make much impression; but then that has been the recurring story throughout the season so far. Yet having lost the major portion of the contest up front in each of their games, Wales are still in contention for the championship.

Whatever the pros and cons of possession, they still only lost by a whisker at Twickenham, they survived against the marvellous Scots, and, in Dublin, are the only team so far to win away from home. The

French will be aware that there is no wide platform upon which Wales can perform comfortably, but they have learned to manoeuvre precariously and excitingly on a tightrope wire. For all they desire to run, though, they do know that the safety net is there in the shape of Thorburn's boot.

The wing three-quarter Phil Lewis of Llanelli dropped out of the Welsh team late yesterday because of illness. The Cardiff centre Robert Ackerman was called into the squad.

TODAY'S TEAMS AT CARDIFF

England		Ireland	
G H Davies (North)	15 Full Back	H P MacNeill (Dublin)	15
M E Harrison (North)	14 Right wing	T M Ringland (Dublin)	14
F J Clough (Cambridge Univ)	13 Right centre	M J Kearney (Dublin)	13
K G Simms (Cambridge Univ)	12 Left centre	B J Mullin (Dublin Univ)	12
R Underwood (Leicester)	11 Left wing	K D Croxall (Leicester)	11
C R Andrew (Nottingham)	10 Stand off	R P Keyes (Nottingham)	10
N D Mitchell (Worcester)	9 Scrum half	M T Beattie (Blackburn)	9
G J Chilcott (Barnsley)	1 Prop	A P Kennedy (London Irish)	1
S E Brain (Coventry)	2 Hooker	C F Fitzgerald (St Mary's College)	2
G S Pearce (Northampton)	3 Prop	D C Fitzgerald (Lansdown)	3
P J Winterbottom (Reading)	6 Flanker	D Morrow (Bangor)	6
W A Dooley (Preston Grange)	4 Lock	D G Lemlin (Cardiff)	4
M J Colclough (Swansea)	5 Lock	B W McCall (London Irish)	5
G W Rees (Nottingham)	7 Flanker	M J Coles (London Irish)	7
D Richards (Leicester)	8 No 8	B J Spillane (Dublin)	8

Wales		France	
P H Thorburn (North)	15 Full Back	S Blanco (Biarritz)	15
A N Oler (North)	14 Right wing	J-S Lafond (Pau)	14
J A Deveraux (Glamorgan)	13 Right centre	P Sella (Agen)	13
B Bowen (South Wales Poets)	12 Left centre	D Charvet (Toulon)	12
A M Handley (Cardiff)	11 Left wing	E Bonneval (Toulon)	11
J Davies (Newport)	10 Stand off	G Laporte (Strasbourg)	10
R N Jones (Swansea)	9 Scrum half	P Berbizier (Agen)	9
J Whitefoot (Cardiff)	1 Prop	P Marocco (Montfermeil)	1
W J James (Aberystwyth)	2 Hooker	D Dubroca (Agen)	2
I H Eldman (Cardiff)	3 Prop	J-P Garuet (Lourdes)	3
P Moriarty (Swansea)	6 Flanker	E Champ (Toulon)	6
S J Perkins (Pontypool)	4 Lock	F Haget (Strasbourg)	4
D R Waters (Newport)	5 Lock	J Gondou (Bordeaux)	5
D F Pickering (Llanelli)	7 Flanker	D Erbani (Llanelli)	7
P T Davies (Llanelli)	8 No 8	J-L Joinel (Brive)	8

Scotland B aiming for treble

By Ian McLachlan
The Scotland B team have travelled to Villafraanca-Saone hopeful of completing their third victory over France at this level. The pitch has a light covering of snow but the French are confident of the game being played tomorrow.

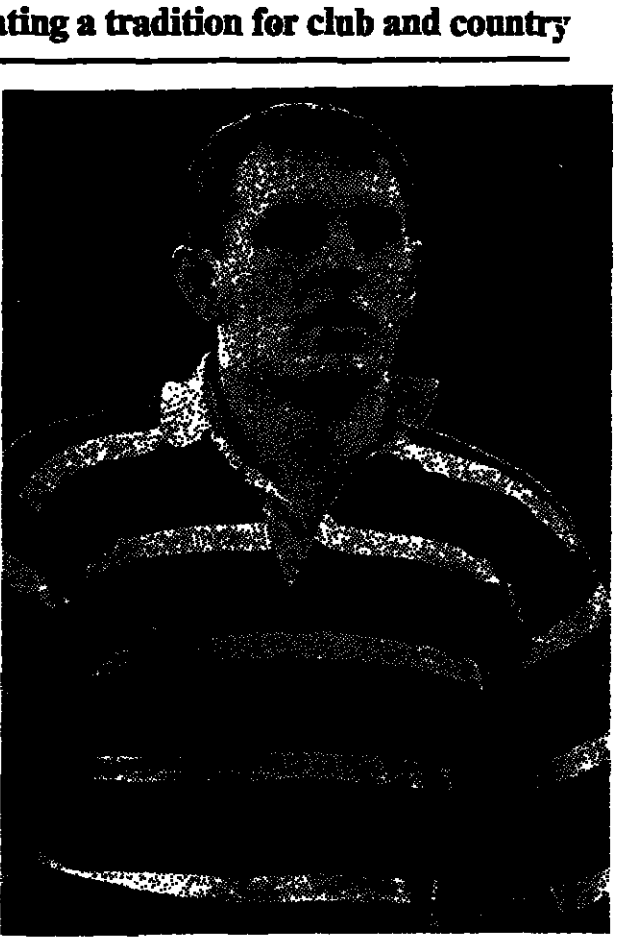
David Hands looks at England's investment in a man creating a tradition for club and country

Richards makes his point

Dean Richards is as representative of the modern rugby player as any. He has played a season abroad; he gives up something in the order of £150 in wages to play for England and does so willingly; he accepts with wry equanimity club demands on him made a few hours after finishing a high-profile job, in his case police duty, which has involved this season among other things riot control in Birmingham.

Problems ahead for Ulster

By George Ace
Today's Ulster senior programme, according to the fixtures book, bears very little resemblance to the one that will take place, weather permitting. Already ruled out by frozen pitches are Ballyclare v Queen's University, Collegians v Omagh and Enniskillen v City of Derry. Extremely doubtful are Dungannon v Highfield, CUMS v Portadown, NIFC v St Mary's and two hastily arranged fixtures, Malone v Ards and Instonians v Queen's University. In the "reasonable hopeful" category is Ballymena's away game at Blackrock, while another rearranged game, City of Derry v Armagh has reasonable prospects of being played.



The very model of a modern player: Richards, a man with the force to reach the top of a competitive ladder

Yorkshire switch

Yorkshire county cricket club have switched their three scheduled matches at Bradford this season to Headingley while ground improvements are carried out at Bradford. The matches affected are John Player Special League v Somerset (May 4); Britannic Assurance County Championship v Warwickshire (June 28-30) and v Glamorgan (August 9-12).

RUGBY LEAGUE

GB lose three key men

By Keith Macklin

Three of Great Britain's most experienced players have been forced to drop out of today's international match against France at Wigan through injury. As a result, Great Britain have to make a positional switch and bring in four new caps in David Laws, Kevin Rayne, Neil James and the substitute, Tony Marchant.

The full-back switch is a calculated gamble by the Great Britain coach, Maurice Bamford, in place of Mick Burke, who has withdrawn along with Harry Pinner and Jeff Grayson, Bamford moves the Wigan winger, Joe Lydon, from the wing to the No.1 position.

Lydon has played full back for Wales and at junior international level, but the move involves a risk by Bamford that Lydon may break down with one of the injuries that seem to have dogged his career during the past few months. Since signing for Wigan for a record £100,000 from Widnes, Lydon has played only a few minutes reserve-team football, and there is also a question mark against his total match fitness.

Great Britain may miss the combined weight of experience of Burke, Pinner and Grayson, but once again there is plenty of running in the side and the Hull Kingston Rovers winger, Laws, has both pace and determination. The new forward caps, Rayne and James, are also strong runners, and Great Britain certainly have the power and speed to break down the French defence.

However, Bamford is well aware of the threat posed by this new-look French team, who have improved considerably since the Australian-born coach, Ted Baitieri, took over. Baitieri, according to Bamford, has instituted greater discipline into the wayward French, has tightened the defence, and has introduced several tactical ploys such as diagonal kicking for fast wingers.

Much depends on whether France fall foul of the their notorious inability to travel well. Great Britain have been lucky to get a 10-10 draw in Avignon a fortnight ago, but French sides tend to fold up when put under pressure away from home. If Baitieri can motivate the French at Wigan today Bamford and his team will have their hands full.

BOBSLEIGHING

Gamble to earn dividends

From Chris Moore
Königssee
Nick Phipps's gamble of changing his crew on the eve of the four-man competition at the world championships here like paying dividends here today. Phipps brought in Lenny Paul, the Army sprinter, and his crew from Mark Toot's crew for yesterday's final practice, which was reduced to only one run.

Phipps, a physical training instructor in the Royal Anglians, who ran 10.4sec for 100 metres in this year's Army championships, took over on the brakes from Alan Cearnus who moved up to no.3 in place of Colin Harris, a former Great Britain high jumper. At their first attempt the new crew, rather than the old crew, pushed their best start time so far of 5.26sec and are confident of going under 5.20sec today.

Their final practice time of 49.72sec was only the fastest overall but Phipps was still well satisfied having had the disadvantage of being last but one to go.

"Given a reasonable draw in the race I will be looking to finish in the top six," said Phipps, who admitted he was taking a risk in changing the crew at the last minute. "It left us with only a minimum amount of time to practice with Lenny, but his extra speed made all the difference."

IN BRIEF

The Test and County Cricket Board disciplinary committee has rejected allegations by Sussex that Lancashire made illegal approaches to the opening batsman, Gahan Mendis, before signing him.

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Large advertisement for ENO Madam Butterfly, featuring a large illustration of a butterfly and text about the opera.

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainments and the arts

1 - 7 March, 1986

Françoise Sagan reveals how she fell in love with...

Games of Chance

I first became acquainted with gambling one June 21. Born on the first day of summer, I approached the gaming tables with firm resolve on the evening of my twenty-first birthday. I entered the Palm Beach in Cannes with a godfather on either side of me, both of whom were amused to witness my debut on the green baize.

In those days in Cannes at the end of June, some of the most famous patrons of the Palm Beach would come face to face. Darryl Zanuck was there, as were I think the Cognac-Hennessys, and Jack Warner, and other giants among the great gamblers of all time. Wisely, I was kept away from this table and, more bewildered than impressed, merely observed the conflict among Titans. I learned the rules of *chemin de fer* learned that on a single hand of just two cards with a combined value of 8 or 9 one stood to win 50 million old francs - although one then had to stake those winnings double or quits on the next hand, against just two cards. More than the enormity of the sums involved, it was the speed with which they changed hands that fascinated me. I fancied myself gambling with my destiny, just like that, in two quick hands.

I ended up with my guardian angels, or rather my demon spirits, at a little roulette table, where I was amazed to discover that my favourite numbers were 3, 8 and 11 - a fact of which I had been totally unaware and which turned out to be unalterable. I discovered that I preferred black to red, odd numbers to even, low to high, and other instinctive choices that would no doubt be of great interest to psychoanalysts.

And something else I discovered for myself was that, at the gaming table more than anywhere else, it was important to conceal one's emotions. In the course of a single



The Clermont: where the temperature was high but the players were cool

evening I had seen it all, betrayed on people's faces with the kind of intensity and exaggeration affected by certain ham actors: distrust, credulity, disappointment, anger, passion, stubbornness, exasperation, relief, exultation and, even more unconvincingly, indifference. And so I decided that, come what may, whatever the blessings or blows of fate, I would meet them always with smiles and graciousness.

I will not seek to explain here the appeal of gambling: either you are susceptible to it, or you aren't. You are a born gambler just as you are born with red hair or intelligence.

It is true that gambling is a profoundly absorbing pastime. It is true that you can

keep the person you love most waiting for two hours if you are involved in a game that affords any relish. It is true that you can almost completely forget your debts, constraints and restrictions in pursuit of the croupier's shoe, only to come to an hour later and find your problems have increased tenfold. But what an hour! Your heart races, you lose all notion of time, forget the value of money, forget the tentacle-like shackles of society.

It is true that as you play, money becomes once again what it should never cease to be: a game, chips, something that must be traded for something else and that in itself is meaningless. It is also true that real gamblers are rarely wicked, miserly or aggressive. They have a toleration for others shared by all those who are not afraid to lose what they have; those who consider that all material possessions and moral tenets have no lasting value. For them every setback is no more than a stroke of bad luck, and every victory a gift from heaven.

One summer I rented a big, dusty, dilapidated house above Honfleur, and I was all ready to spend the month of July swimming in the sea when I discovered two situations that, alas, went hand in hand: the sea was always miles out, but the casino at Deauville was always open. Instead of days spent in the sunshine, there were nights without sleep. For Bernard Frank, Jacques Chazot and me, there was only the dawn and the night, with sometimes a glimpse of grass in between. The singing of birds was drowned by the click of chips, green baize took the place of green fields.

On August 7, the day before I was supposed to vacate the house, we went for what we thought was the last time to the large white casino. Soon ruined at a game of *chemin de fer*, I withdrew to the roulette table where by dawn, thanks to the 8 which came up



Thomas McAvoy, Life Magazine ©1965, Time Inc

immediately and continued to do so, I was in possession of 80,000 new francs (this is 1960).

We returned to the house in excellent spirits, only to find the owner himself at the front door. I was about to start going through the dreaded inventory with him when, out of the blue, he asked me whether I wanted to buy the house. I opened my mouth to say that I was a born tenant, that I never bought anything, when he added: "I'll let you have it for 80,000 francs."

It was August 8, I had won on the 8, he was selling it for eight million old francs, it was eight o'clock in the morning - what else could I do in the circumstances? I drew the banknotes out of my bulging evening bag and went to bed in triumph in what was to be - and has remained to this day - the only property on earth I own: a house that is still rather dilapidated, situated three kilometres from Honfleur, and twelve from Deauville.

Let no one come to tell me of the evils of gambling or the misfortune that weighs on gamblers. I shall say nothing of the endless repairs or the various disasters that ownership of this country house has entailed - and with which any property owner will be familiar. Instead I shall cite the 25 wonderful years during which I faithfully returned to the house, 25 years of sunshine

and rain and rhododendrons and the happy holidays I have spent there. Mortgaged 20 times over, nearly sold on two occasions, a workplace for my working friends and a refuge for lovers, this house is today worth eight billion memories.

And of course the same house has witnessed countless dawn returns, in triumph or despair, but always in that spirit of excitement and insouciance which accompanies the practice of gambling. Thousands of anecdotes surface in my memory, just thinking of those breakfasts drinking coffee or champagne, when doors were carefully closed without a sound if we had lost, or burst open on any unfortunate sleeper with cries of triumph: "We're celebrating!"

There was the time someone made 60,000 francs, having started with only 100; and the time when, because I didn't speak clearly, my last hundred francs were placed on

the 30 and not on low by a harassed croupier, and the 30 won. There was the time when a friend won back twice over everything his girlfriend had lost, and the time when another friend won enough to buy the car of his girlfriend's dreams. There was the time we all had to chip in to pay for the petrol to drive back to Paris, not to mention the innumerable occasions when we had to borrow money from the doorman to pay for the taxi home.

Memories of winning are always more vivid. You only remember the good times, just as you only remember congenial players. You cannot imagine the number of friends and acquaintances you can make in 25 years of gambling, and yet never know their names. You see the same faces night after night, for three months, then sometimes again the following year, then sometimes for three years in a row. You do not talk to one another except to say hello: smiles of congratulation or regret are exchanged, depending on how the other is faring. You share your fortune good and bad,

The image of sang-froid: Sagan in the 1950s

bound by ties closer than any that the most intimate confidences might create. There are friends like these that you do not lose (and there are a few whose death you learn of by chance, from a footman). You also come across gamblers who play too hard, whom you see at the beginning of August showing off in flashy cars, and who appear at the Bar du Soleil looking more haggard every day, and at the end of a fortnight you learn of their urgent departure. "Adieu calves, cows, pigs, hens... adieu to those dawns beneath the domed casino, adieu to the whiteness of the sea and the empty beaches, adieu to the galloping of the first horses prancing in the light that you flee, your eyes stinging with cigarette smoke..."

It was after a run of bad luck that I decided to go to London. My literary agent drew my attention to a sinister individual there, who was amassing a fortune at my expense. He owed me the sum

of 25,000 francs, I believe, and refused to send it to me. I decided to set off with my agent on a mission to recover the money.

On the very first evening, with my agent in tow, I had dinner with my charming friend. We dined at Annabel's - at that time, the place to go - and when we reached the dessert, my English friend pointed out that directly overhead, on the first floor, was the Clermont Club. I had heard several friends describe it, in tones of horror and delight combined, as a typically English club, where the temperature of the game was high though the players would display all the coolness for which the British are renowned. So we went upstairs. I was introduced by my friend, and knowing me all too well, he then left me alone for an hour at the *chemin de fer* table and went back downstairs to drink my health with my agent, who was already suffering some misgivings.

I surveyed the scene around me. It was a large, comfortable, wood-paneled room, with leather-furniture and a few inimitable specimens of

Continued on page 18

SATURDAY

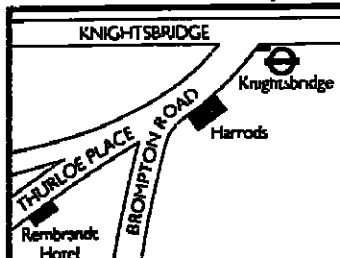
Willkommen, bienvenue... Liza Minnelli on stage in London, page 22

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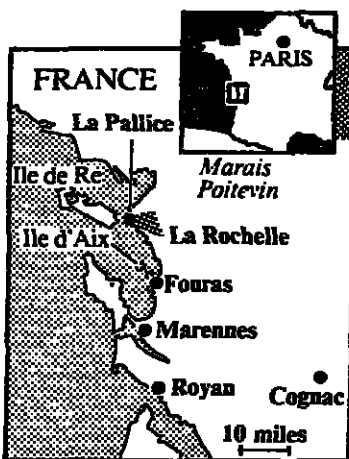
TRAVEL

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

A pearl of a place for seafood and history

John P. Harris retraces the footsteps of two diarists and eats his way through mounds of shellfish in the charming resort of La Rochelle

The Craddocks stayed at La Rochelle's best hotel, the Comte d'Artois. They did not get much sleep, because of the bed-bugs.



No doubt resisting the temptation to have a good scratch, she admired "the immensity of the works of the Creator" on the beach. It was covered with "a multitude of men and women industriously scooping up oysters, mussels, shrimps etc."

There were plenty of delicious etceteras on the two-foot-long plateau de fruits de mer my wife and I shared at André's fish bar on the harbour. Crabs big and little, langoustines, clams, cockles and winkles (pawns provided) as well as oysters, prawns and shrimps, piled up on crushed ice and seaweed.

The Comte d'Artois has disappeared. A more eminent diarist, Virginia Woolf, stayed at the Hôtel de France et d'Angleterre in 1931, and found it "exactly right". So did we, in 1985: it is clean, quiet and well-equipped. It has a garage, an advantage that outweighs the five minutes' walk to the harbour.

great square, to whose traffic jam we kept returning is the Place de Verdun on the town-plan but the Place d'Armes on its buildings. Perhaps that is to confuse the enemy: La Rochelle was occupied by the Germans longer than any other French town.

Without a car, we might have chosen the garageless St Jean d'Acres (slightly cheaper: two stars instead of three) because of its splendid position right on the harbour.

By "harbour" I mean the Vieux Port, as distinct from the fishing port, the pleasure port with its moorings for thousands of yachts and lesser craft, and - three miles away - the industrial port of La Pallice, with the ferries to Ile de Re. The Vieux Port is the place to be: a fine man-made landscape, plus water and sky, and restaurants and cafés all around. Sitting on a café terrace and toying with a beer, a nice cup of tea (well, fairly nice: this is France, where the tea is as pale and delicate as a Victorian heroine) or a Pineau des Charentes (the local aperitif: grape juice whose fermentation has been stopped by the addition of cognac), one contemplates a foreground of strolling Rochelais and Rochelaises, some assorted foreigners, and well-heeled yachtspeople, and a background dominated by the great towers at the harbour entrance.

century. There used to be mighty chain slung between them every night, to lock up the port in case of raiders.

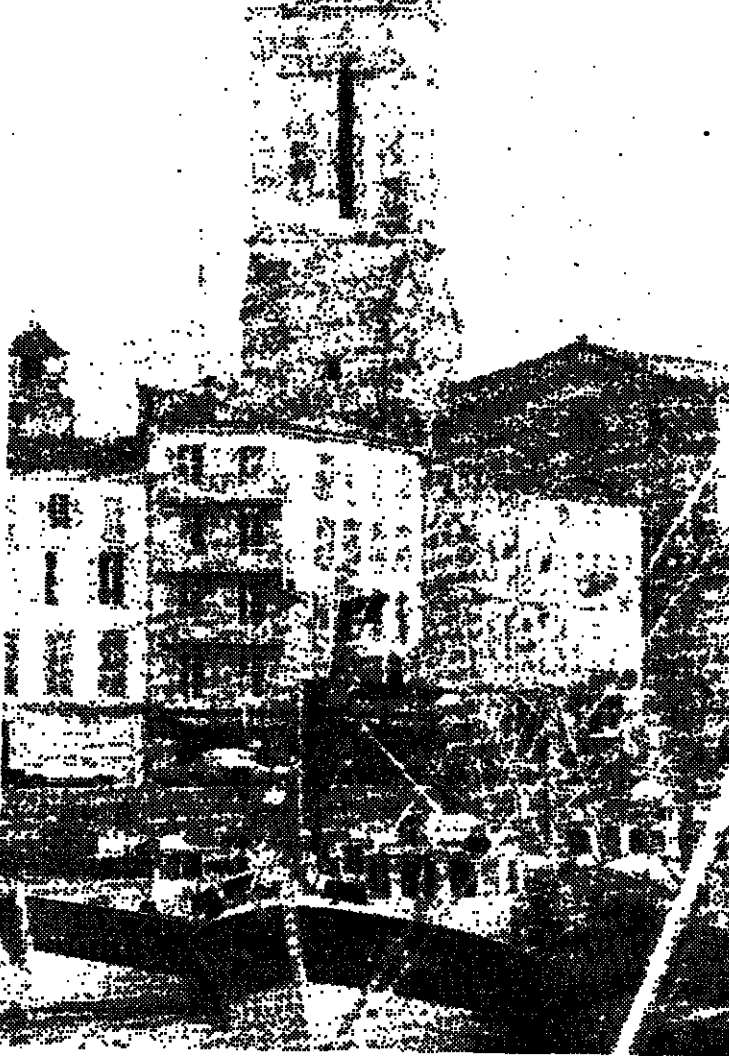
The town needed fortifications. Independent, prosperous and a centre of Protestantism, it was a thorn in the side of central government. The Duke of Anjou besieged it in 1573. The inhabitants stuck it out for six months, helped by what they called their "incense-launcher": a device for casting boiling oil and pitch over the royal army, which gave it up as a bad job after losing 20,000 men.

Cardinal Richelieu returned to the attack in 1627. The English tried to force the blockade and bring food in their ships, but Richelieu slung a long dyke across the bay, with soldiers and cannons on it, leaving only a small gap for the tide. Starvation did the rest. When Richelieu made his triumphant entry in October of the next year, all but 5,000 of the 28,000 inhabitants had died.

Most of the fortifications, except the towers, were then destroyed. In place of the walls there is now a mile-long public garden, with the most zigzagging through it, conveniently near the Vieux Port. A short trip by pleasure boat is recommended, if only for the unforgettable approach to the harbour.

No danger of starvation in normal times. Apart from all the fish and scobblers, this is a land of cream and butter: drive south for an hour and cross by the ferry at Royan, and you are in the Bordeaux vineyards; Cognac is a short distance east; good beef in the meadows, and excellent lamb; and the Marais Poitevin is a stone's throw to the north: a curious region where the market gardeners divide their fields by canals and go about their business in little boats, producing succulent vegetables.

In the environs, I went to Fouras, which has four beaches, facing in different directions, so whichever way the wind blows one can build sandcastles, and bathe if the tide is in. When it is out, miles of oyster and mussel beds are exposed, and shrimps and shrimps.



On the waterfront: La Rochelle's harbour and the church of St Saaveur

twisted in his mouth he said, "but Virginia Woolf just had coffee, silly girl. The oysters were delicious, so cheap and such a lot of them. Marennes produces some 40 thousand tonnes a year, about 400 million oysters. That is only about eight per head of the French population. Luckily there are big oyster beds in other parts of France, but the Marennes ones are among the best. Their sought-after green colour comes from a unicellular seaweed, Navicula Ostrearia, which appears and disappears unpredictably in the beds. They are just as nice when they are not green. I'm amazed that Leonard could stop after his first dozen. Perhaps it was Virginia looking squeamish. My wife eggs me on so we scobbled with gusto.

TRAVEL NOTES

Hotel France-Angleterre, 22 rue Gargouilleau, 17000 La Rochelle. Tel. 46 41 34 66. 76 rooms, 197-265 fr. Hotel St-Jean d'Acres, 4 place Chaîne, 17000 La Rochelle. Tel 46 41 73 33. 49 rooms, 180-220 frs. Andre is at 5 rue Saint Jean. Sargis is at 46 Cours des Dames. Office de Tourisme, 10 rue Fleuriat, 17000 La Rochelle. Tel 46 41 14 68. Worth a visit is the tiny island of Aix, a 25-minute sail away, where Napoleon spent his last night before being shipped to St Helena. For the whole Poitou-Charentes region: Comité Régional de Tourisme, 2 rue Sainte-Opportune, 86002 Poitiers. Tel 49 88 38 94.

DRINK

Dame Edna's beverage

Ask any open-minded British wine merchant where the vogue recherché tipple of 1986 will come from and the antipodes is almost certain to be the answer. To this country's more fashion-conscious drinkers even Californian wines now look positively old hat compared with the latest arrivals from Australia and New Zealand.

Rosemount wines from the Hunter are currently the best distributed Australian wines in the country. And although their Chardonnay wines do tend to mature considerably faster than any Côte d'Or white burgundy I know, their Show Reserve Chardonnay does develop much of this region's mature, buttery elegance in a fraction of the time and at half the price.

New Zealand is perhaps slightly trailing in Australia's wake, but its cool, temperate, maritime-influenced regions provide in general a superior grape-growing climate than that of its hot, arid neighbour. Certainly there are many New Zealand white wine styles that are currently superior to those of Australia, especially those made from the Sauvignon, Gewürztraminer and Müller-Thurgau grapes.

Fine Wines of New Zealand (PO Box 476, London NW5), run by Margaret Harvey, a knowledgeable New Zealand wine lover, is a good place to find them. Of her current crop of Kiwi wines John Hancock's classy Morton Estate '85 Chardonnay (£6.50) and '85 Sauvignon Blanc (£5) are definitely worth trying, as are the Delegat's '84 and '85 Chardonnay. Montana's stylish '84 Sauvignon Blanc is another classic New Zealand wine with a wonderful, intense, nettle, flowering-currant smell and taste (Odbbins £3.99, André Simon shops £3.95).

However, the most magnificent antipodean wine I have tasted recently is a sensational

Jane MacQuitty

GERMANY

"Once upon a time there was a magical, peaceful land of mountains sprinkled with flower-filled meadows; of wide, rolling rivers that ran past vineyards, under the walls of many a noble castle, through ancient and beautiful cities to the sea; where the people loved food and music in equal proportion, and enjoyed their fill of both..."

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1986 is also celebration year for two historic Bavarian Kings: Ludwig I, architect of classical Munich, and Ludwig II, fairytale King, patron of Wagner and builder of dreamlike castles: there's no better year to visit his fantasies in all their grandeur!

1986 There are even more holiday packages available by air, rail, car and coach, and for a lot less money than you would think.

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Games of chance

English society: racehorse owners who, between each banco, talked only of the turf; two outrageous old ladies with flowery hats and enormous jewels; a degenerate young heir who bore the name of one of the best English families; and opposite me sat a socialite friend from Paris who rolled his eyes in horror when he saw me sit down at the awesome table. The stakes were all in guineas and I had no idea of their value. Someone muttered an inaudible explanation in my ear, the manager arranged for a little pile of chips to be brought to me in exchange for a little piece of paper which I happily signed, and play began.

It was very pleasant, I must admit. The English are the best gamblers in the world, as everyone knows, and gam-



The house at Honfleur: bought with a night's winnings

bling really seems to raise their spirits. To my left there was talk of horses, to my right it was regatta, and opposite, foreign travel was the topic of conversation. Meanwhile, my little pile of chips disappeared one after the other, to a general lack of concern, including my own. Hardly had one little pile disappeared than a splendid valet would place another on a silver tray in front of me. I would sign his little piece of paper and so it continued.

I was awakened from this happy state of lethargy an hour later by the sudden appearance of my agent's face looming over me. He looked quite green. He too mumbled something incomprehensible, in which the words "ruined", "disaster" and the like re-

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my remaining chips on a 9: they instantly disappeared. So I passed on the shoe and tried to think. To pay off the debt, I would have to give up the flat where I was living, ask my mother to take care of my son, find a one-room flat nearby and for the next two years work exclusively for the benefit of the taxman and the Clermont Club. It was a catastrophe.

So catastrophic, I thought, that if I was going to lose two years of my life anyway, losing four would make no difference. I raised my hand rather distractedly and the alacritous valet was immediately at my side with the wretched little stack on his wretched tray. Once more I signed one of his wretched little chits and in a ringing voice asked to play banco next time round. I won. After that I played banco whenever I had the chance.

I was gambling recklessly, as though there were no tomorrow as they say, and - what a miracle! - it was all coming back again. I watched my little pile become a big pile at a rate that was unbearably slow and at the same time prodigiously fast. From time to time, I would ask the footman to relieve me of all these things that were getting in my way, and he would return one of my notes, having torn it in half.

After an hour had passed in this wretched way, I discreetly enquired of the silk-stockinged messenger how I stood with the house. He went and spoke to the proprietor who, it seemed to me from what I could see out of the corner of my eye, was much quicker in his calculation, the result of which was brought back to me on another little note, which I unfolded without betraying any haste. I now owed only fifty pounds. At this time, I might add, I had had to discuss the Epsom Derby with the person on my left, and the attractions of Florida with the person on my right.

I stood up, suddenly weary, and cordially took my leave of everyone at the table, who responded just as cordially. I

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Rock records

REVIEW

Leaving the old wagon wheels behind

The Judds Rockin' with the Rhythm (PICA AHL-7042Z) Rosanne Cash Rhythm and Romance (CBS 28385) George Strait Something Special (MCA 5805)

At best country music is one of the most enduring and endearing forms of popular expression to have come out of white working-class America. Sadly, it hasn't enjoyed a good image in Britain, where it is associated with dreadful television cabaret shows or the Wembley Festival's usual collection of tired and grossly sentimental troupers.

The Country Music Association aims to change that image this year. Under the slogan "Discover New Country - Leave the wagon wheels behind", it is planning to tempt the closet cowboys into the open. In particular three new records from the Judds, Rosanne Cash and George Strait give good reasons why it's safe to emerge.

The Judds are something of a phenomenon in America at present. A mother-and-daughter team, Naomi and Wynonna, they recall the styles of Appalachian folk and bluegrass but update a down-home sound with a deliberately contemporary choice of banjo and production.

Abetted by the band leader Don Potter and their producer Brent Maher, the Judds' new album, Rockin' with the Rhythm, unveils all their virtues: mountain-fresh harmonies, tight arrangements which veer from swing to hypnotic r'n'b and good material, lovingly presented.

Apart from Maher's original country songs, the Judds bravely tackle Allen Toussaint's "Working In The Coal Mine", which though not quite as good as Lee Dorsey's version, provides a chance to hear vocal colouration at its most ornate. In a different mood is "Grandpa (Tell Me 'Bout The Good Old Days)", which bubbles over with good humour.

Rosanne Cash, like Naomi and Wynonna, enjoys the advantages of having the music run in the family - she is the daughter of Johnny Cash. Rosanne's twang, however, is about the only thing she has in common with her parents. Rhythm and Romance has a gritty feminine quality and style that eschews the usual barrage of country pickers in favour of a lean, punchy Californian production. Ms Cash also has that knack for selecting the right song; she also writes herself, using none of the clichéd formulas.

Besides, anyone who has the good taste to cover John Hiatt's "Pink Bedroom" - a razor-sharp insight into the boredom of the LA Valley Girl set - sets herself apart from the usual peroxidized practitioners of the art. She is occasionally assisted by her husband Rodney Crowell, who is also a country artist, but her best song is the self-penned "Halfway House", an intelligent



Punchy production: Rosanne Cash eschews old formulas

and never hidden under a bourbon-soaked croak. When he sings "You Sure Got This Ol' Redneck Feelin' Blue" you know that he isn't living a sepiatinted life.

If Strait has a natural peer then it's Merle Haggard or Hoyt Axton, with whom he shares a loving for a plaintive pedal steel, a haunting fiddle and the lurt of the open range. Strait is actually something of a revelation in the new country male stakes and a visit to Britain would break him out of the category altogether. Something Special is no idle boast. George Strait is the genuine rawhide.

Strait's Something Special is a few shades more macho than the Judds and Cash, but his vocal delivery is soulful

Max Bell

THE WEEK AHEAD

Quest for King Arthur

FILMS ON TV

Though reared in television documentary, John Boorman has used the cinema as an escape from realism. Even apparently naturalistic films, like his dazzling American thriller, Point Blank, owe as much to metaphysics as the conventions of the gangster genre.

In most of Boorman's features, including his latest, The Emerald Forest, there is one consistent theme and that is the quest. It is powerfully evident in pictures as superficially different as Zardoz, Deliverance and Hell in the Pacific.

Even more obviously it permeates his 1981 film, Excalibur, which has its British television premiere on Channel 4 on Tuesday (9-11.30pm). It is based on the legend of King Arthur and the Holy Grail, a subject Boorman long cherished and was finally able to film very much on his own terms.

In doing so he opened up a critical debate about his work, touching on the paradox of artistic freedom. Boorman is an uncompromising filmmaker, whose unshakeable integrity has often brought him into conflict with an industry which tends to distrust men of ideas and prefers the quick buck.

As his book about the making of The Emerald Forest showed, Boorman is not a director who finds the commercial imperatives of filmmaking easy to accommodate. This explains why his output is comparatively small - his nine films have been spread over 20 years - and why his career is peppered with unrealized projects.

But the irony, to some critics at least, is that his best films - Point Blank, Deliverance - have been made within the restrictions of the studio system, while the freedom to make personal projects of his own choosing has often produced less than satisfactory results. Excalibur is central to this argument.

Those who dislike the film say it is the result of giving free rein to a director of bulging ideas but uncertain judgement. They point to the choppy narrative, the sudden shifts in tone and the idiosyncratic casting, particularly of Nicol Williamson as Merlin. Others have seen Excalibur as one of Boorman's finest achievements, a film of power and richness, both visually and on the level of myth and legend.

About the scale and ambition of the work there can be little argument. Nor about Alex Thomson's arresting photography. The main questions are whether Excalibur



Headstrong hero: Nigel Terry, impetuous and glib, in Excalibur

offers the same feast for the mind as it does for the eyes, whether what lies behind the brilliant images is intellectually penetrating or merely pretentious?

Much depends on the credibility of Arthur himself. As played by Nigel Terry (soon to be seen as the painter Caravaggio in Derek Jarman's new film), he is not the conventionally noble figure of movie, if not Arthurian legend, but a young blood by turn glib, impetuous and headstrong.

The performance that makes the strongest impression, however, is that of Nicol Williamson. It is an eccentric portrayal which draws upon the actor's impressive range of visual and vocal effects. Whether or not it works is a matter for individual judgement and the same can be said for the film itself.

Peter Waymark

RECOMMENDED

The Knack (1985): Ann Jellicoe's stage play transformed into a dazzling kaleidoscope of visual gags by director Richard Lester (Channel 4, tomorrow, 10.15-11.50pm).

The Quiller Memorandum (1986): Muted but watchable spy thriller with a script by Harold Pinter and cool playing from Alec Guinness (BBC1, Mon, 10.10-11.50pm).

Dance Hall (1985): Diana Dors and Petula Clark as factory girls finding romance at the Palais de Danse in an unassuming slice-of-life drama from Ealing (Channel 4, Thurs, 5-6.30pm).

The Salvation Hunters (1925): Rare television outing for Josef von Sternberg's silent classic of romance on the mud flats (BBC2, Fri, 11.45pm-12.55am).

CHESS

Kings in a capital contest



In form: Boris Spassky

In 1980, 1982 and 1984 the GLC, in conjunction with stockbrokers, Phillips & Drew, funded a Grandmaster tournament in London of the very front rank. This year the tradition continues, though the GLC is now sole sponsor.

The star-studded 1986 GLC Chess Challenge will run from March 11-17, at The Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, London. Tickets are available from The British Chess Federation, 9a Grand Parade, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0DD.

The favourites for top honours this time include the great Boris Spassky. This week's game demonstrates the recent excellent form of the ex-world champion.

White: Julian Hodgson; Black: Boris Spassky. Four Knights' Game, Brussels 1985.

An old and reputedly harmless line, not least because Black can lay immediate claim to equality with Rubinstein's 4...N-Q5.

This constitutes an interesting, if temporary, attempt to keep the centre fluid for his Bishop-pair. 12 PxKP PxP. 13 NxP fails to 13...N-B2, but 12 P-Q5 N-B2, 13

B-Q3 is quite respectable. 12...Q-B2 13 PxQ PxK1 14 PxQ PxK2 15 PxQ PxK3 16 PxQ PxK4 17 PxQ PxK5 18 PxQ PxK6 19 PxQ PxK7 20 PxQ PxK8 21 PxQ PxK9 22 PxQ PxK10 23 PxQ PxK11 24 PxQ PxK12 25 PxQ PxK13 26 PxQ PxK14 27 PxQ PxK15 28 PxQ PxK16 29 PxQ PxK17 30 PxQ PxK18 31 PxQ PxK19 32 PxQ PxK20 33 PxQ PxK21 34 PxQ PxK22 35 PxQ PxK23 36 PxQ PxK24 37 PxQ PxK25 38 PxQ PxK26 39 PxQ PxK27 40 PxQ PxK28 41 PxQ PxK29 42 PxQ PxK30 43 PxQ PxK31 44 PxQ PxK32 45 PxQ PxK33 46 PxQ PxK34 47 PxQ PxK35 48 PxQ PxK36 49 PxQ PxK37 50 PxQ PxK38 51 PxQ PxK39 52 PxQ PxK40 53 PxQ PxK41 54 PxQ PxK42 55 PxQ PxK43 56 PxQ PxK44 57 PxQ PxK45 58 PxQ PxK46 59 PxQ PxK47 60 PxQ PxK48 61 PxQ PxK49 62 PxQ PxK50 63 PxQ PxK51 64 PxQ PxK52 65 PxQ PxK53 66 PxQ PxK54 67 PxQ PxK55 68 PxQ PxK56 69 PxQ PxK57 70 PxQ PxK58 71 PxQ PxK59 72 PxQ PxK60 73 PxQ PxK61 74 PxQ PxK62 75 PxQ PxK63 76 PxQ PxK64 77 PxQ PxK65 78 PxQ PxK66 79 PxQ PxK67 80 PxQ PxK68 81 PxQ PxK69 82 PxQ PxK70 83 PxQ PxK71 84 PxQ PxK72 85 PxQ PxK73 86 PxQ PxK74 87 PxQ 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THE WEEK AHEAD



FILMS
STREEPWISE: Meryl Streep adds Danish to her repertoire of accents, playing the writer Karen Blixen in *Out of Africa* (PG), a painstaking account of love and hard times on a farm in Kenya. Robert Redford co-stars. Empire (01-437 1234), from Wednesday.



TELEVISION
LAC LUSTRE: Denholm Elliott, an actor who can almost be guaranteed to turn in a screen-stealing performance, co-stars with Anna Massey in *Hotel du Lac*, from the Booker Prize-winning novel by Anita Brookner. BBC2, tomorrow, 10.05-11.20pm.



BOOKS
BUS STOP: Maeve Binchy, the best-selling author of *Light A Penny Candle*, puts eight of her short stories between hard covers for the first time in *The Llac Bus* (Century, £8.95), a characteristic anthology of human joys and sadness.



THEATRE
SOLO TURN: Rowan Atkinson, who made his name on television with the zany comedy of *Not the Nine O'Clock News* and *The Black Adder*, returns to the West End with a new one-man show, *The New Revue*, Shaftesbury (01-379 5399), from Friday.



OPERA
WEILL BODY: Kate Flowers, who has sung several soubrette roles at Glyndebourne, moves on to sterner stuff as Jenny in Scottish Opera's *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* by Kurt Weill. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 5399), from Wednesday.



CONCERTS
STRING TIME: Nigel Kennedy, the talented and unconventional young violinist and Aston Villa supporter, plays the Bruch Concerto with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra under Lukas Foss. Barbican (01-638 8891), Monday, 7.30pm.

ARTSDIARY

Maestro race

Herbert von Karajan's membership of the Nazi party has been thrown back at him in the most ironic way. The maestro, a great yachting fanatic, approached the American writer Roger Vaughan to undertake his authorized biography because he admired Vaughan's work as editor of *The Yacht*. Unfortunately, Vaughan found it impossible to ignore this most unfortunate of episodes in von Karajan's life. The conductor always said he joined the Nazis for career reasons. Vaughan, however, cites evidence that von Karajan did not join the Nazis in the politically expedient year of 1935, but two years earlier, suggesting a deeper enthusiasm for the party. That von Karajan should be reminded of these wounding details 40 years on by the man whose writing he admired so much is bad enough. Just as bad is that Weidenfeld, who publishes the book this week, have now been denied help with the publicity promised earlier by von Karajan's record label, Polygram. The company denies that this is anything to do with the book's contents. "We're not book promoters", is their curt response.

Razor sharp

The man who liked the razor so much he bought the company, Victor Kiam, adopts the same breezy approach to publishing. He has written *Going For It*, a manual on how to succeed as an entrepreneur. But far from allowing the usual market forces to rule its sale, Kiam is buying 90 television commercial slots on ITV. Naturally they will star Victor Kiam. Most people in publishing would argue that this is commercial nonsense. But does it matter as long as Kiam gets a mention?

The Lindsey quartet solved the problem of the extra viola when they tackled two Mozart quintets at the Wigmore Hall on Wednesday. Viola player Robin Ireland called in his father Patrick, an ex-member of the famous Alexi quartet. The last time the two played in public together was when the BBC was making a documentary about the quartet, when Robin was six. They played "Baa Baa Black Sheep".

Grand idea

With all the smart money in Hollywood being put into sequels - *Rocky II*, *Superman III* - the French have decided to make a sequel to that anthem to 1960s nostalgia, *Un Homme et Une Femme*. Triantignat and Alméc are Anouk Aimée and Jean Louis Triantignat will once again star, though given the time that has elapsed since the original it might be wiser to title it *Un Grandpère et Une Grandmère*.

About-Turner

I can finally solve the mystery surrounding the sudden withdrawal of three watercolours by the 18th-century artist William Daniel from Christie's autumn sale last year. The paintings, almost certainly by Turner, are all Indian views and are unique in that they represent Turner's only work reflecting the sub-continent - he never actually went there. Had they been by Daniel, a top price of £5-7,000 might have been expected for the works. When they go on sale at Christie's on March 18 they can be expected to raise a minimum of £10,000 each.

A problem girl comes of age

Suresh Karadi



Liza Minnelli is returning to the London stage next week, after surviving a year of personal crisis

"I like this place a lot", says Liza Minnelli, looking round the "21" Club from a corner banquet table in the most select area of the dining room. "I saw a movie about the Twenties, once, and during Prohibition the whole of that long bar swung round when the cops came, and all the bottles and glasses went down into the vaults. The cops could never get down into the vaults - they didn't have the right papers."

Then during the depression this was one of the few places that would give credit, and when times got better people remembered that. Tradition and loyalty are two qualities that mean a great deal to her.

Her enthusiasm is reminiscent of the Liza Minnelli image of *Cabaret* and *Sterile Cuckoo*, but nowadays her almost childlike eagerness seems calmed; only occasionally does it break through a stronger, adult gusto and level-headedness, which in turn gives way from time to time to an almost maternal warmth. Her lack of pretence, her direct, on-the-level approach seems like a matter of conscious, very deliberate choice. Any Liza fan, looking forward to her next appearances at the London Palladium, must think of her legendary first appearance there, a guest on her mother's stage, when she first gave notice that she would be a performer to be reckoned with.

"It was exciting, it was wonderful to do, but I remember the Palladium even before that, from when I was little. As a child I can remember going to the Palladium and seeing all kinds of things; it was wonderful. It's always a high point, because there's a feeling of consistency to it: it's like the joke about the youngster asking directions of an old New Yorker. He says 'How do you get to Carnegie Hall?' and the old guy says 'Practice' - it's the same thing."

She has always, in preparing her songs, worked on them as if for an acting part, developing backgrounds for the character behind the song. For the forthcoming British concerts she has gone one step further, writing with Fred Ebb, the songwriter she has worked

with regularly since her first triumph in his *Flora, The Red Menace*. "It's thematic in a way, it's about different women in different situations at different times in their life, but each song is almost a little playlet - it's about women I know or made up and how they react in different circumstances and situations. It offers you an opportunity to play different roles without changing costumes, do it all with interior work, and that's my favourite thing to do. Then you're not just singing the song, there's a history to it, it makes the performance of one song complete."

"Anzavou has always done that, so, apparently did Piaf - I never saw her, but I've read that each song was a little vignette and it's always interested me to do that. So this is the first show where I've really followed it through as much as I can."

According to reports in the American press, her voice is now better than it has ever been. "I know it has to do with health. I've found that since I've stopped drinking completely my voice is much stronger. I just feel so well and much calmer. People come of age in their voice at different times, and I guess this is my time."

How has she achieved this calmness? "The most helpful way I've found to do it is to stay current with your emotions every day. People have always said about me - and I'm very grateful - that I'm a good friend and I guess that I've finally made friends with myself for the first time and I'm treating myself like a real good friend as opposed to tormenting myself to keep going."

Judy Garland sang autobiographically that she was "born

in a trunk". Her daughter, as she herself says, was "born in a fishbowl" - from birth her life has been documented in the international press. So last year her retreat to the Betty Ford Clinic to break her dependency on valium and alcohol was very well publicized indeed. She talks about it freely, not like a *True Confessions* magazine but more like a senior nurse lecturing junior nurses who are quite likely to encounter the same problems.

"I was feeling so ill, I was really sick - the disease of chemical dependency is a terrible thing, it's insidious, it's cunning, it's baffling, and you can't play with it because it's going to kill you. You don't know what's happening, you feel fine most of the time, but you've crossed an invisible line so you're really allergic to this stuff and it happens so slowly."

Because she was who she was, the whole world knew of her problems. But she doesn't resent that at all, she says. Her primary feeling is that of being lucky - lucky that she went through being famous so early that she never experienced the shock of being unknown one minute and then subject to public scrutiny as soon as success arrived. "It's never bothered me - I think it's because I'm not frightened at all. People have never frightened me."

Liza Minnelli is lucky, too, that she is secure enough to choose what she is going to do: "I can sit here and say 'No' to things and know that they're not going to come and remove the furniture, or take away the apartment, I'm not going to be out on the street - it's a very privileged position to be in."

She will be celebrating her fortieth birthday in England, but it doesn't hold any threat for her. "I should have celebrated it two years ago, when I fell 40. Anyway, it's very in to be 40! All the big sex symbols now are between 40 and 50 - your own Joan Collins!" And there's plenty more to do. "I honestly feel I haven't scratched the surface yet!"

Henry Fenwick

Liza Minnelli's new show opens at the London Palladium (01-437 7373) on Friday.

THE TIMES CHOICE

DANCE

SECOND STRIDE: This small but innovative and influential company presents *Bosendorfer Waltzes*, a new theatrical collaboration by Ian Spink, choreographer, Orlando Gough, composer, and Antony McDonald, designer. Fokine's *Firebird*, surrealism and Dadaism are among its inspirations. Tues-Mar 8. The Place, 17 Duke Road, London WC1 (01-387 0031).

ROYAL BALLET: The company's week at the Palace Theatre, Manchester (081 236 9922) ends today with two performances of *La Fille mal gardée*, then back to base on Thurs with Birtley's *Clorinda Lessons*, MacMillan's *Cloris* and Wayne Eagling's *Frankenstein*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: Varied casts perform *Coppelia* this afternoon and evening at the Theatre Royal, Norwich (0603 28205) and Mon-Mar 8 at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham (0602 42328).

LONDON CONTEMPORARY: Works by Jerome Robbins, Sibban Davies, Robert Cohan and Christopher Bannerman are given in two programmes, Tues-Mar 8. Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0752 669595).

FILMS

OPENINGS

HEIROSUKE GOSHO SEASON: Europe's biggest retrospective of films by one of Japan's major directors; 23 films, beginning with two classics - *Woman of Mist* and *An Inn At Osaka*. National Film Theatre (01-928 3232), From Tues.

DETECTIVE (15): A densely-packed folderol from Jean-Luc Godard, with a clutch of characters up to obscure tricks in a Paris hotel. Camden Plaza (01-485 2443), Metro (01-437 0757), From Fri.

RAM (15): Kurosawa's majestic variations on *King Lear*, awash with battle and apocalyptic sights; with



Tetsuya Nakadai (above) as the old, traught king and excellent music by Toru Takemitsu. Curzon West End (01-439 4805), Screen on the Hill (01-435 3366), Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220), From Fri.

SELECTED

YEAR OF THE QUIET SUN (15): Krzysztof Zanussi's eloquent account of a thwarted love affair. ICA Cinema (01-830 3547).

OUT OF ORDER (15): Carl Schenkel's crisp German thriller about four people trapped in a lift. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148).

STREETWISE (18): Powerful documentary about Seattle's teenage wags. Screen on the Green (01-226 3520).

GALLERIES

OPENINGS

LIVING ART: This year's Ideal Home Exhibition has contemporary art as its theme. The main pavilion will be controlled by the Arts Council and Liberty. Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court (01-385 1200), From Tues.

NEXT: TOMORROW: Visions of the future with video, installation and

THEATRE

performance work by artists of the 1980s. Kettle's Yard Gallery, Castle Street, Cambridge (0223 352124), From today.

TUNNICLIFFE: Four decades of drawings from the studio of the renowned wildlife artist Charles Tunnicliffe. Tryon and Moorland Street, London W1 (01-734 6861), From Wed.

ABSTRACT ART: Work by three British artists who decline to return to the currently fashionable figurative style: John Gibbons, Frank Bowling and Clyde Hopkins. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (01-402 6075), From today.

CANVASS: First phase of two-year exhibition highlighting young talent, including Pauline Alwright and Paul Stork. John Hansard Gallery, The University, Southampton (0703 559122 ext 2158), From Mon.

SELECTED

ART AND TIME: How artists present movement in a multi-media exhibition of work from the late 19th century onwards, including Dali, Duchamp and Degas. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 5403).

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS: A chance to re-evaluate the English 18th-century artist who was revered in his lifetime but reviled by subsequent generations. Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 9052).

CONCERTS

CONTINUED SHOSTAKOVICH: In their complete series of Shostakovich string quartets the Borodin Quartet has reached No 9, and they are joined by Peter Donohoe for the Piano Quintet. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800), Tues, 7.30pm.

MAGIC HORN: Sheila Armstrong and John Shirley-Quirk sing Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141), Wed, 7.30pm.

ECO/FATE: Jeffrey Tate conducts the English Chamber Orchestra in Mendelssohn's *Fingal's Cave Overture*, Haydn's "Drum Roll" Symphony and, making her concerto debut in this country, Maria Joao Pires solos in Schumann's Piano Concerto. Barbican Centre, Wed, 7.45pm.

NEW ENGLAND TRIP/TYCH: American composer William Schuman's piece opens this concert by the London College of Music Symphony Orchestra. It also includes a rare opportunity to hear Delius's lovely Violin Concerto (soloist Jackie Harley). St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1081), Thurs, 7.30pm.

OPERA

MADE IN BANGKOK: New play by Anthony Minghella about package tourists on a stop-over in Bangkok. Aldwych (01-836 8404), Previews from Thurs. Opens Mar 18.

ORPHANS: Albert Finney, with Gary Cole and Kevin Anderson, in Lyle Kessler's drama. Hampstead (01-722 8301), Previews from Thurs. Opens Mar 11.

TALK OF THE DEVIL: World premiere of new comedy by Mary O'Malley. Directed by Bill Alexander with Ian Dury as the Devil. Palace, Watford (0923 25671), Previews from Thurs. Opens Mar 12.

OPENINGS

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED: New production by the Theatre of Comedy Company. Highly recommended. Tonight, Triangle Arts Centre, Birmingham (021 359 3579); tomorrow, Haymarket Theatre, Leicester (0533 539797); Mon, Warwick University Arts Centre (0203 11747); Wed, Lewisham Arts Centre, Sheffield (0742 754500).

JEANNE: Shirlee Roden's rock opera version of the life of Joan of Arc, directed by Bill Kenwright with choreography by Anthony van Laast and musical arrangements by Anthony Bowles. Starring



Rebecca Storm (above), Peter Straker, Malcolm Roberts. Sadlers Wells (01-278 8916), Previews today, Mon. Opens Tues.

SELECTED

A TASTE OF ORTON: A fine double bill comprising a biographical miscellany, *Gorilla in the Fog* and the original television play *Funeral Games*. King's Head (01-226 1916)

TORCH SONG TRILOGY: Harvey Fierstein's Broadway hit provides a showcase for Antony Sher as the plucky drag queen and for Miriam Karlin and Ian Sears. Albery (01-836 3878).

OUT OF TOWN

BRIGHTON: A Taste of Honey. Miriam Karlin directs a new production of Shelagh Delaney's bitter-sweet study of life in the 1950s in the north of England. Theatre Royal (0273 28488), Opens Mon.

LANCASTER: The Clerical Outfitters. World premiere of new comedy by Elizabeth Bond. A town discovers the relics of its local patron saint in the vaults of the Muslim Community Centre. Duke's Playhouse (0524 56645), Opens Wed.

SHEFFIELD: Who Killed Hilda Murrell? Chris Martin's play examines the death of

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE
29) opens new season; followed by *Trailus and Cressida*. Booking opens today. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795/01-638 8891), information, 01-638 4141).

LAST CHANCE

ANNE FRANK IN THE WORLD: Hundreds of photographs of events surrounding the life of Anne Frank. Finishes tomorrow, 10-8. Mail Galleries, The Mall, London SW1 (01-830 6844).

CONCERTS

Hilda Murrell, a 78-year-old rose grower, whose murder in Stroud in 1984 was the subject of intense public speculation. Crucible Studio (0742 79822), Opens Thurs.

ROCK AND JAZZ

VIOLENT FEMMES: Any American folk-punk-rockabilly band whose idea of a good time is to rebore T Rex's "Children of the Revolution". Tonight, International Manchester (061 224 5050); tomorrow, Warehouse, Leeds (0532 468267); Mon, Town and Country Club, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-267 3334).

GEORGE RUSSELL: One of jazz's great composers, he is making his British debut at the helm of a multinational orchestra featuring Paule Mikkilborg and Kerry Wheeler (trumpets) and Django Bates (keyboards). Highly recommended. Tonight, Triangle Arts Centre, Birmingham (021 359 3579); tomorrow, Haymarket Theatre, Leicester (0533 539797); Mon, Warwick University Arts Centre (0203 11747); Wed, Lewisham Arts Centre, Sheffield (0742 754500).

ANITA O'DAY: Remember jazz on a *Summer Day*, the carwheel hat, those gloves? A perfect definition of Dixie hipness. Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

JOHN MARTYN: A 24-carat romantic with a voice to calm the Devil. Tomorrow, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4081).

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA: *Il barbiere di Siviglia* is back, with Danish baritone Mikael Melbye making his debut in the title role. Performances tonight, Tues and Fri at 7.30pm. On Mon, Wed and Mar 8 at 7pm. *Rosalind Plowright* is the Leonora in a revival of Visconti's production of *Il trovatore*. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Another week of Puccini and Mozart, with three lively productions: tonight, Tues and Fri at 7.30pm Graham Vick's handsome and illuminating staging of *Madam Butterfly*. Jonathan Miller's enlightening production of *The Magic Flute* takes over on Thurs at 7pm. *La Bohème*, with Valerie Masterson and Arthur Davies a superb Mimi and Rodolfo, should not be missed on Wed and Mar 8 at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martins Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3163).

RARE ORFF: Rare chanceto see Carl Orff's opera based on Grimm, *Die Kluge* (*The Clever Girl*), on Tues, Wed and Thurs at 8pm, by Opera Plus. Manning Hall, University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1 (01-580 9551).

PHOTOGRAPHY

THIS WIDE WORLD: Wide format photographs by an almost unknown Edwardian, A. H. Robinson. Beach scenes and seaside resorts which capture the golden age before the First World War, all of which have a certain idyllic charm. Impressions Gallery, 17 Colliergate, York (0904 54729).

THE VALLEYS PROJECT: Fourth exhibition from a project documenting life in the valleys of South Wales. Harsh reality and touches of nostalgia. The Foto Gallery, 31 Charles Street, Cardiff (0222 41667).

Dance: John Percival; Films: Geoff Brown; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Concerts: Max Harrison; Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Flack; Photography: Michael Young; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1277.4 (-4.1)
 FT-SE 100 1543.9 (-5.6)
 USM (Datastream) 115.56 (+0.19)
THE POUND
 US dollar 1.4520 (-0.0310)
 W German mark 3.2322 (-0.0601)
 Trade-weighted 73.2 (-1.5)

Help for oil sector

The Energy Minister, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, yesterday hinted that the Government would take into account the British oil industry's difficulties with falling world oil prices when it comes to consider approval for future projects.

Speaking in Aberdeen he said that the first round of onshore licences for oil exploration — previous licences have been awarded on an *ad hoc* basis — will be announced this month and will provide work for the oil construction industry.

He said: "Our fiscal regime is responsive to the new situation. It is geared to provide incentives for oil companies to get ahead with new developments."

"In any case, oil companies plan for the long term. A new development planned today is unlikely to provide oil until the 1990s. It is not today's price, but the price expected in the 1990s that matters."

£1bn loan for Hanson Trust

A £1 billion sterling-denominated loan facility has been arranged for Hanson Trust, which will be partly used to finance the cash element of Hanson's £2.4 billion bid for the Imperial Group.

The loan comprises a short-term line of credit, followed by a seven-year term loan. It is fully underwritten by a group of international banks.

Reed sale

Reed International is selling NVK Sphinx, of Holland, to Algemeene Bank Nederland prior to the flotation of Sphinx on the Netherlands stock market later this year. Sphinx manufactures ceramic sanitary ware, floor and wall tiles and refractories.

Forecast ban

The Corporate Affairs Commission of Victoria said it would not permit BHP to release profit forecasts for its current year ending May 31, or for 1986/87.

Hunting deal

Hunting Gate Group, the property company, has bought the Homemakers Group of housebuilding companies, of Sussex, for £4.3 million.

Share plan

Imperial Metals intends to buy, through Canadian stock exchanges, some of its shares during the year beginning March 6.

Travel buy

WSE Holdings has conditionally agreed to acquire Schools Abroad for between £5.9 million and £12.9, and the outstanding 25 per cent minority interest in H & Travellaw for between £500,000 and £750,000.

Optical move

Prestrich Holdings has conditionally agreed to sell 80 per cent of Henlys Optical Group for £7.1 million to CooperVision, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Prestrich paid £1.6 million for Henlys in 1983.

Cash call

KLP Group is raising £2.65 million, after expenses, through a two-for-nine rights issue selling at 255p each. Proceeds will be used to reduce borrowings.

Trust goes on

The board of Rights & Issues Investment Trust has decided to continue the trust for a further five years.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	12.75%
Am & Company	12.75%
BCCI	12.75%
Citibank	12.75%
Colon	12.75%
Commerzbank	12.75%
Deutsche	12.75%
Edinburgh	12.75%
HSBC	12.75%
Ind. Bank	12.75%
London	12.75%
Mar. Bank	12.75%
Paribas	12.75%
PSA	12.75%
Sanchez	12.75%
Standard	12.75%
Swiss	12.75%
TSB	12.75%
Wells	12.75%
York	12.75%

Source: Bank of England

Lloyds profits up 20% as bad debt burden eases

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank, the smallest of the big four clearing banks, kicked off the bank reporting season yesterday with a 20 per cent increase in pretax profits for 1985.

Last year, the bank's exposure to Latin American debtors fell and profits on domestic operations surged. The overall provision for bad and doubtful debt — a factor which has dogged Lloyds for four years — was lower than in the previous year.

Pretax profits increased from £468 million to £561 million, in line with market expectations, while a low tax charge of 41 per cent, compared with 48 per cent in 1984, caused a 43 per cent rise in earnings per share to 93p.

The dividend is to rise from 17.7 p to 21p, and the bank intends to make a one-for-two scrip issue.

Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, said that 1985 was the last year of the old structure of Lloyds. Since then the UK clearing bank and Lloyds International have been merged. Lloyds Merchant Bank has been launched and Lloyds Bank California is being sold.

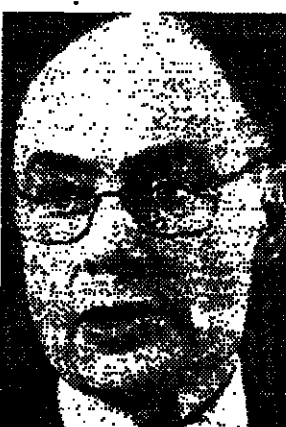
Sir Jeremy said the changes made Lloyds more adaptable to future developments in rapidly changing world markets.

The bank's average total assets remained virtually unchanged at £43 billion in sterling terms because of the weakness of the dollar which reduced the value of Lloyds' large overseas loan portfolio.

The sterling value of overseas assets dropped 9 per cent to £24.3 billion from £26.8 billion the year before.

At the same time, bad debt provisions fell from £269 million to £257 million, with a slight increase on the international side offset by a 14 per cent drop in provisions on UK business.

Sir Jeremy said that high interest rates and high provisions had persisted for four years. He welcomed the plan by Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, to increase lending to Third World debtor countries and reshape their economies, but he said the international banks would reject any attempt by debtor



Sir Jeremy Morse: keen competition

countries to put ceilings on their interest repayments.

He said Lloyds and other banks could not afford to allow interest payments on their loans to be cut down.

The profitability of Lloyds' domestic banking jumped by more than 40 per cent, however, from £288 million to £410 million compared with a 16 per cent fall in international profitability by the bank.

Mr Brian Pinner, the chief executive, said the change was due to the bank's policy of

improving the quality of its earnings rather than expanding its assets.

Sir Jeremy said that Lloyds would be competing more keenly in the UK, especially in personal banking, by concentrating more specifically on particular groups of customers. But he added: "It will not be easy to keep up growth in the UK with the increasing competition."

Lloyds lost around 20,000 accounts last year to other banks because of free banking offers. Sir Jeremy said that he regretted the introduction of free banking because it meant that cross subsidization of banking services, which was unfair on some customers, would have to continue.

"We hope to make up the lost revenue on free banking by selling more fee earning services," he said.

Lloyds ended last year with increased primary capital of £2.3 billion, including issues of perpetual floating rate notes. When off-balance sheet items are taken into account, the risk asset ratio rose from 8 per cent to 11 per cent.

Times, page 25

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Oil rediscovered in sporadic trading

The oil markets began some seriously, if sporadic, trading in April and May contracts yesterday and the foreign exchanges rediscovered oil. The result was a cold sponge for the unfortunate pound and for some of the more immediate market hopes for lower base rates.

Brent crude for April delivery dropped to \$13.70 a barrel and May contracts to a new low of \$12.70. There was a similar pattern in the US with West Texas intermediate crude for April down \$1 to \$13 a barrel.

In these circumstances, and even on the day of the announcement of a \$16.46 billion January US trade deficit, the pound was up against it. The sterling index fell 1.5 points to 73.2, there was a 3.1 cent drop to \$1.4522 against the dollar and a new closing low of DM3.23 to the currently very strong German mark.

The stock market caught a whiff of the panic, mainly on the base rate impact. But shares are still affected with enough euphoria for it to take much more than this to produce a major wave of selling. And the same, in current circumstances, goes for gilt.

lost much of its bloom, underperforming the rest of the stock market by 2.3 per cent in the past three months. The bids for Allied-Lyons, Distillers and Davenport, a regional brewer, have failed to support the sector in the way other bids have lifted the market as a whole.

Recent underperformance can be partly explained by pre-Budget nerves, though the Chancellor is not expected to do more than increase duties in line with inflation, which would put 1p on the price of a pint of beer, 20p on a bottle of spirits and 5p on a bottle of wine. In case of nasty surprises however the market is unlikely to regain confidence until after the Budget on 18 March.

Assuming the worst fears are allayed, and consumer spending continues buoyant, all that will be left holding dealers back will be the O.F.T. Sir Gordon will be under scrutiny.

BES opportunity

The Chancellor has an excellent opportunity in the Budget to carry out a broad reform of the Business Expansion Scheme instead of tinkering with it, as he did in the last two budgets.

Blatant abuses, notably the farming and property development ventures, were eliminated in the 1984 and 1985 budgets respectively, but this has not prevented so-called sponsors inventing largely artificial asset-backed schemes which make a mockery of the BES ethos. Farming and property development have simply been replaced by a plethora of BES schemes using hotels, pubs, retirement-nursing homes, restaurants, antiques, fine wines and retail stores to raise money.

Asset-backed schemes *en masse* ought to be removed from the ambit of the BES, which should be extended at the same time, in its reformed guise, beyond the April 1987 deadline. There will clearly be problems in drafting the enabling legislation so as to introduce a satisfactory acid test of what constitutes an asset-backed venture, but this problem is not insuperable. Apart from the desirability of increasing shareholder participation in genuine unquoted vehicles, there is considerable political mileage for the Chancellor in an innovative reform of the BES.

The Chancellor should publish the report on the BES, commissioned by Peat Marwick Mitchell and which was completed last autumn. There is little governmental information on the success or otherwise of the scheme, and this report — the only comprehensive review carried out — deserves public airing.

It may well highlight the ways in which the scheme is being abused, but taking these away should not dry up BES finance. Instead, the generous tax breaks available to investors should herald greater investment in more worthy causes.

P&O bank sale starts bid talk

By Cliff Feltham

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company is selling its in-house banking business, TCB, to the First National Finance Corporation for £47.5 million in cash.

The deal has fuelled speculation that Sir Jeffrey Sterling, the shipping group's chairman, is clearing the decks to mount a big takeover bid.

He owns 20 per cent of European Ferries, the cross-Channel ferry operator, and has been strongly tipped to launch a full-scale offer. But last night he refused to comment on it.

The sale of P&O's TCB banking business has been on the cards for some time but offers have always been spurned.

It was brought into the P&O fold when the shipping group acquired Bovis, the building firm, and was then known as Twentieth Century Banking.

Its sale to First National Finance Corporation will bring together two companies which were closely involved in the secondary banking collapse of the early 1970s.

TCB has achieved steady, reliable growth and last year made profits of £7.7 million, up from £7.5 million, with a portfolio of short to medium term loans with some blue chip commercial customers. Its assets at the end of 1985 stood at just under £230 million.

The deal also indicates that Sir Jeffrey has decided not to move into the financial services sector but instead to remain with his mainstream shipping and transportation businesses.

The acquisition provides further evidence that First National Finance Corporation has now made a complete recovery, after its rescue by the Bank of England more than a decade ago with debts of £350 million.

The First National Finance Corporation, recently announced its first dividend for 12 years and reported profits up from £17.6 million to £22.6 million.

As part of the deal P&O will take warrants in respect of 3.5 million shares.

On the stock market, P&O eased 6p to 490p and FNFC fell 4p to 188p.

Receivers called in at hovercraft firm

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

One of Britain's two remaining hovercraft manufacturers is in danger of being closed with the loss of more than 100 jobs.

Receivers were yesterday called in at Vosper, the parent company of Hovermarine, of Southampton, which makes sidewall hovercraft for use in sheltered waters.

National Westminster, the group's main banker, called in Mr Anthony Houghton and Mr A G Atkinson, of Touche Ross, the accountancy firm, to handle the loss-making company's affairs.

Vosper, which owned the Vosper Thornycroft warship yards until 1977, when they were nationalized, is reckoned to have gone down owing more than £8 million. It no longer has any connection with the warship yard.

Mr Houghton said that Hovermarine was building seven hovercraft, but there was no firm buyer for any of them. He would for the time being be running the company as a going concern, and he "very much hoped" that a British buyer could be found.

Vosper said that its future

US trade deficit at record

Washington (AP-Dow Jones) — The United States had a record merchandise trade deficit of \$16.46 billion (£11.12 billion) in January, the Department of Commerce reported.

It released revised figures showing that the December deficit was \$14.9 billion, compared with a \$12.81 billion deficit in November.

Department officials pointed out that the revised figures give a more accurate reflection of trade, as they eliminate most of the carryover, or the value of trade data received too late to be included in the initial report.

They said that for January 11.6 per cent of exports and 35.4 per cent of imports occurred in earlier months, but the data was received late and the figures were included in the latest month.

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary for Commerce, said that the customs service was working to improve its performance in reporting import data on time.

Revised figures for all of 1985 show a trade deficit of \$144.6 billion, compared with a deficit of \$127.64 billion for 1984.

US exports in January rose 0.1 per cent to a seasonally-adjusted \$17.01 billion after falling 4 per cent in the previous month to an adjusted \$16.99 billion. Imports increased by 4 per cent in January to an adjusted \$33.47 billion after rising 2.3 per cent in December to an adjusted \$32.14 billion.

The value of imports of petroleum and related products in January rose by 1.8 per cent to an adjusted \$5.25 billion from \$5.16 billion the preceding month.

By volume oil imports in January rose by 3.4 per cent to 193.42 million barrels from 187.01 million barrels in December. The average price of a barrel of imported oil fell to \$27.14 in January from \$27.59 in December.

The American trade deficit with Canada narrowed to \$1.71 billion in January, compared with \$2.7 billion for December. The trade gap with Mexico narrowed to \$498.9 million from \$794.6 million.

The deficit with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries widened to \$1.83 billion from \$1.38

Brewers in spotlight

Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, last year sent a warning shot over the brewing industry about the tied houses system, even though the EEC had virtually given its blessing. Now he has sent off a volley of questionnaires to the big six national brewers and three smaller companies to grill them on everything from prices and profits to tenancy conditions.

We have been here before. The last time the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had a look into brewing, in the 1960s, it decided that the tied house system was against the public interest but failed to come up with any practical suggestions on what to do about it. More recently at the behest of the EEC the brewers have been easing the tie so that tenants have a choice in buying in wines and spirits and some other peripheral supplies like soft drinks.

The Brewers' Society argues that brewers have been steadily divesting themselves of tied pubs and off-licences. Twenty years ago they owned 78 per cent of pubs but still account for 46,700, or 59 per cent. Even if clubs are included in the equation brewery control applies to 41 per cent of off-licences. In the far more competitive high street, brewers now own less than 10 per cent of off-licences compared with some 30 per cent a score of years ago.

It is not only the nation's beer drinkers who will be interested in what Sir Gordon says. The stock market too will watch closely for impending change. Yesterday it showed no more than mild curiosity, knocking a few pennies from the leaders such as Grand Metropolitan and Bass. But the sector has already

Hillsdown takes 5% stake in Berisford

By Our Business Correspondent

Hillsdown Holdings, the fast-growing foods group, yesterday emerged as a 5.95 per cent shareholder in S & W Berisford, the commodity trading and sugar refining group, prompting stock market speculation that it is about to launch a full-scale bid.

Berisford is already in discussions with Ferruzzi, the Italian food and agricultural group, about a possible £340 million offer.

Such an offer would involve a later management buyout of the commodity trading operation, leaving the Italian company in control of British Sugar, the monopoly refiner of sugar beet in Britain.

Hillsdown has also been negotiating with Berisford over the sale of British Sugar but has so far failed to come up with a proposal that satisfies the Berisford management. Hillsdown declined to comment on its intentions yesterday.

On the stock market, Berisford shares climbed 9p to 202p.

Water costs warning

The cost of water will be a major expense for British industry once the water supply industry is privatized, according to National Utility Services.

The energy monitoring group has forecast that with the possible exception of Thames Water, water authorities will be forced to increase charges.

Mr Graham Pusey, the managing director of NUS, said: "Those increased costs will force companies to pay close attention to the price they pay for water."

Prospects 'improving' in debt crisis

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The fall in the dollar and the debt initiative of Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, have improved prospects for the resolution of the world debt crisis, according to the *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, published yesterday. But serious problems remain.

The Review says that lower world oil prices should enhance growth and reduce inflation but the short-term impact is to increase the overall scale of the debt problem, and to shift it towards oil exporting debtor nations such as Mexico, Venezuela and Nigeria.

More rapid world growth and lower real interest rates would make every aspect of the debt crisis easier to solve, authors Mr Christopher and Mr Vijay Joshi, say. The crisis would be eased by slow growth, lower interest rates and protection.

The authors call for international action to bring down interest rates, in both real and nominal terms, worldwide.

And they add: "Even if the macroeconomic environment improves, some countries are likely to face acute financing difficulties...the important thing is that the political will to find a solution to these difficulties should exist."

"The banking system can no doubt provide some finance and if the climate is improving, it pays them to do so. But the problem is bound to involve more public and official intervention in the supply of funds."

In a separate article in the Review, Professor John Williamson, of the Washington-based Institute for International Economics, looks at whether debtor countries are likely to repudiate their debt — declare that they do not recognize any responsibility to service it — and whether the banks are likely to offer debt relief to the heavily indebted nations.

He argues that countries are unlikely to repudiate their debt, because of the threat of sanctions against them; be-



James Baker Praised for his initiative

cause of the damage it would do if they ever wanted to return to international capital markets; and because if the government is seen to be reneging on its international obligations, citizens of the country could renege on their domestic obligations and property rights could be at risk.

Professor Williamson suggests that there is no need for countries to repudiate their

debts. Those who cannot pay will have debts rescheduled anyway, those that can would find it difficult to put up a convincing case for repudiation.

In the case of Peru, which set a limit for one year on debt service equal to 10 per cent of export earnings, no banker would have expected to receive more than this anyway, Professor Williamson says.

There is a case for the banks to offer the poor countries debt relief, he says. This is because the banks were careless in supervising loans to the poor countries and because restrictive macroeconomic policies in the industrialized countries contributed to the debt crisis.

Debt servicing costs in Latin America, at 6 per cent of gross national product, are in relation to national income, twice those of the heavy German reparations between the wars.

The British economy is expected to grow by 2 per cent this year and 1.7 per cent next year, with inflation steady at 3.5 per cent to 4 per cent.

“Excellent overall performance.”

This was a recent description of Oppenheimer's investment achievements over 1985, a year when our European Growth Trust out-performed all other authorised unit trusts in the UK.

1986 has started very well with statistics for the 12 months to 1 February 1986 showing 5 of our 10 funds in the top 100 of all 725 authorised unit trusts and, as importantly, none in the bottom 300*.

This excellent overall performance was achieved by active management as demonstrated by our 3 general trusts, International, European and Pacific, all of which were 2nd in their respective sectors over the last 12 months.

*Source: Plannet Savings, offer to bid, income reinvested, 12 months to 1.2.86.

01-236 3885 (6 lines).

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 INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Soybean, Copper, and various metals. Columns include item name, unit, and price.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies including Sterling, Dollar, and others. Includes columns for currency and rate.

WALL STREET

NEW YORK (AP-DJ) - A powerful rally in the bond market spread to the stock market yesterday afternoon and helped send the Dow Jones industrial average to its first close above the 1,700 mark.

The gains were just as heady in the broader market as a number of market averages surged to new highs.

Table of stock market data including Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and various sector indices. Columns include index name and value.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table of money market rates and gold prices. Includes sections for Euro Money Deposits, Gold, and ECGD.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various maturities. Includes columns for rate and currency.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table of other sterling rates for various countries and currencies.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for company name, price, and change. Includes various equity and bond funds.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices for various contracts and currencies.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table of Canadian stock prices for various companies and indices.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table of unit trust information including fund names, managers, and performance data. Columns include fund name, manager, and various performance metrics.

Quotations refer to Thursday's trading. Includes a note about market conditions and trading hours.

TEMPUS

City unconvinced by Lloyds improvement

The results announced by Lloyds Bank proved something of a revelation and confirmed suspicions about the way the stock market views the banking sector.

The surge in the profitability of its domestic operations, confounding the conventional wisdom that UK banking is becoming ever less profitable with increasing competition.

Saga Holidays

Shipping the elderly off on holiday to Costa Geriatrica should be a simple business. But Saga Holidays, which sells to the over 60s, does not see it that way.

Its customers may be old in body but many are young in spirit. Instead of taking them to Hove or Great Yarmouth, Saga offers holidays on the Trans-Siberian railway, walking tours in Nepal and trips round America.

Suter/UKO

Mr David Abell's reputation could soon be transformed. Until now he has probably been better known for his share dealing than for the way he has built up Suter, where he is chairman, into an industrial conglomerate.

But yesterday, alongside a set of excellent results and the terms of an agreed bid for UKO International, the leading manufacturer of spectacles, he let it be known that Suter would no longer deal in share stakes.

RECENT ISSUES

Abbott Mead V (180p) 223 Ashley (Laura) (135p) 228 up 22 Brookmount (160p) 160 Cable & Wire (587p) 348 up 2 Chart FL (86p) 90 Chancery Secs (63p) 71 dn 1 Cranswick M (95p) 109 Davidson P (180p) 183 dn 3 Dialene (120p) 170 up 10 Ferguson (J) (10p) 22 dn 1 Granville Surface (56p) 71 Inoco (55p) 49 dn 2 JS Pathology (160p) 263

Kearfold (118p) 118 Laxton (115p) 2000 Macro 4 (105p) 143 dn 2 Merivale Moors (115p) 125 Microsystems (127p) 135 Norank Sys (90p) 100 Really Useful (330p) 368 SAC Intl (100p) 130 up 1 SPP (125p) 157 Signax (101p) 218 up 2 Snowdon & B (97p) 112 up 2 Spice (80p) 82 up 3 Tech Comp (130p) 214

APPOINTMENTS

United Scientific Holdings: Mr Peter Hickson has been appointed financial director.

AMEV (UK): Mr Peter Howell has joined the board.

Bishopgate Insurance: Mr Peter Howell, Mr Pim Nanninga and Mr Jan Scherphuis have joined the board.

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FALLS: Rain Inds 38 1/2p - 3 Beeston Clark 186p - 12 Boots 230p - 4 Ward White 274p - 8p

COMPANY NEWS

AUTHORITY INVESTMENTS: Six months to October 31, no dividend. Pretax profit £81,928 (£14,649), tax nil (nil). Earnings per share 1.64p (0.29p).

BOWATER INC: Quarterly dividend of 18 cents per share on common stock.

DWEEK Group is to buy, subject to shareholders' approval, the share capital and undertaking of Q A Furniture for £4.25 million in cash (£2 million on completion and £2.25 million over two years, dependent upon performance).

HOWDEN GROUP: Howden Airdynamics has acquired the whole of the share of Inter Devices of California. There will be an immediate cash payment of \$2.5 million (£1.7m) with a further payment of up to \$2.5 million in June, 1987, dependent on profits. Some additional amounts may be payable, again dependent on certain profits. It is anticipated that the minimum price will be \$5 million.

JENSEN'S DRILLING: Pretax loss £25,024 (£3,138). After tax loss £21,241 (£2,833). Loss per share 101.5p (33.2p).

HEALTH RESEARCH INVESTMENT TRUST: No interim dividend for year to December 31. With figures in £000s, gross revenue was 235 (239), net revenue before tax (15), net revenue after tax 14, distributions to the Child Health Research Appeal Trust (gross) £152,704 (£188,830), net asset value per ordinary share 340.1p (326.3p). Interim dividend 5p (nil) for half year to December 25. With figures in £000s, turnover was 111,383 (99,156), investment income 3,156 (1,846), operating profit before tax 1,638 (402), tax 6639 (469), minorities 439 (nil). Company says that volatility in economic circumstances in Australia and elsewhere illustrates difficulty in predicting results. It is anticipated that the group will maintain current rates of performance for the remainder of this financial year.

CASTLE ELECTRONICS: Company has written to shareholders who have not accepted the Morgan Crucible offer, recommending them to do so.

CHANNEL ISLANDS INC: Total revenue £651,740 (£569,487), consolidated net revenue before tax £577,936 (£502,195), consolidated net revenue after tax £462,349 (£401,774). Earnings per share for 1985 was 46.23p (40.18p).

GREAT WESTERN RESOURCES: Of the 40,478,902 participating pref shares offered by way of rights, 25,340,297 (62.6 per cent) have been taken up. Balance of 15,133,604 pref will be taken up by the underwriters at the subscription price of £1 per share.

PERKIN MEATS: Grovobell Investments has sold its entire holding of 2,429,700 ordinary shares of Perkins (25.31 per cent) for £752,000.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Blue chips slip from peak as investors take profits

gyrations in the oil and currency markets failed to have much effect on share prices yesterday. Leading shares were dull at first on light profit taking ahead of the weekend, but American buyers returned towards the close to lift them above the worst.

The FT 30-share index fell 4.1 to 1277.4. Despite a drop of 5.6 to 1543.9 in the FT-SE index of 100 shares, secondary stocks enjoyed another buoyant session on renewed takeover speculation.

Government securities had a quieter day moving up and down with sterling but the closing pattern was no worse than mixed.

Leaders finished mainly with modest falls. ICI at 927p reversed an early 10p fall on further consideration of Thursday's results. Imperial Group rose 6p to 322p on the Hanson bid situation, but in dull oil BP lost 11p to 530p.

Stores had several good features. Laura Ashley soared 26p to 230p as dealers prepared for a rush of American buying orders expected next week.

Home Charm jumped 66p to 354p on news of discussions which may lead to a bid. Other DIY issues moved up in sympathy, with AG Stanley the Fads group 7p better at 81p.

In contrast, Boots slipped 4p to 230p on news of planned job cuts while Burton lost another 10p to 264p still awaiting Habitat's takeover decision.

UKO International advanced 14p to 196p following agreed terms from Suter, 2p better and 227p. Newman Tonks was lifted 13p to 130p as McKechnie shareholders approved the bid, thus giving the cold shoulder to the Williams approach.

McKechnie dropped 43p to 196p while Williams Holdings lost 14p to 506p.

Pilkington improved 7p to 435p on US acquisition plans, but profit taking cut 12p from Beatson Clark at 186p and 6p from Rockware at 48p.

Martia Ford climbed 16p to 121p. The company has received several approaches and it is understood the family stake has now changed hands and an offer of the remaining shares will be announced next week.

In printers, McCorquodale gained 24p to 205p after a press suggestion of an imminent bid from Norton Opax. S&W Berisford, in receipt of an approach from Italian commodity group Ferruzzi, added 9p to 202p on the disclosure that Hillsdown Holdings, 1p lower at 210p, had acquired a 5.95 per cent stake.

A 78 per cent earnings expansion boosted Derek Crouch 16p to 156p. Burnett & Hallams, suspended at 20p last July, returned at 15p.

Molins improved 11p to 174p as BAT Industries sold its 29.9 per cent holding at 170p. Recently a management buy-out at that price failed by a small majority.

Racal lost 2p to 198p in spite of the chairman's denial of money-raising intentions.

Telematrix, which reports next week, rallied 8p to 98p. Among other electronics, VG Instruments at 378p and UEI 276p advanced around 9p. Profit taking clipped 8p from Amstrad at 362p and 6p from J Crowther at 125p.

Motor distributors continued to reflect the bumper profits from T Cowie, up 25p to 145p, whose shares were also helped by the planned flotation of its financial services division.

Armstrong Equipment at 111p, Appleyard at 106p and Bramall 260p were among those to advance 7p to 17p but Godfrey Davies gave up 8p to 125p.

In chemicals, revived bid rumours excited W Causting at 100p up 7p. Holt Lloyd hardened 3p to 87p helped by press comment. The IBA's strong stance against Rank's bid for Granada left Rank 8p lower at 514p.

AC Cars, a shell situation, climbed 10p to 153p. Have-lock Europa added 7p more to 243p on the recent expansion moves.

First National Finance eased 4p to 186p following confirmation of the acquisition of TCB from P&O for £47.5 million.

Insurances presented a drab picture after Thursday's rather disappointing results from Royal, 8p down at 368p. General Accident at 823p and Commercial Union, 275p, both reporting next Wednesday dipped 8p.

Revised takeover hopes excited Aitken Hume at 169p up 4p but Exco slipped 5p to 239p awaiting the result of merger talks with Morgan Grenfell.

A 45 per cent profit increase prompted a 10p rise in William Bedford at 110p. In contrast Dewey Warren slumped 35p to 128p after a 15 per cent shortfall. Jebbens Drilling at 12p recouped 7p of Thursday's late fall that followed news of heavy losses.

Rights issue news clipped 4p from KLP Group at 300p and 2p from John Kent at 81p. Berkeley Group was hoisted 20p to 350p on press comment. Polytechnic Electric lost 15p to 220p although profits were well up to expectations.

Good Relations picked up 5p to 126p on recovery prospects. Dweek Group at 57p gave back 6p after Thursday's acquisition news. Reed International put on 5p to 807p on the sale of a subsidiary to a Dutch Bank.

Irish banks were buoyant with Allied Irish at 243p up 18p. In supermarkets perennial takeover favourite Normans Group added 3 1/2p to 82 1/2p. Raine Industries eased 3p to 385p as Con-mech Engineering reduced its stake.

February has been a record month for the traded options market. With an average of around 19,000 contracts a day the total for the month is nearly 583,000. Gills contracts totalled 14,599 during the month, the FT-SE 25,681 and currencies £.251.

Most active in company contracts were Lonrho and Imperial Group, dealers said.

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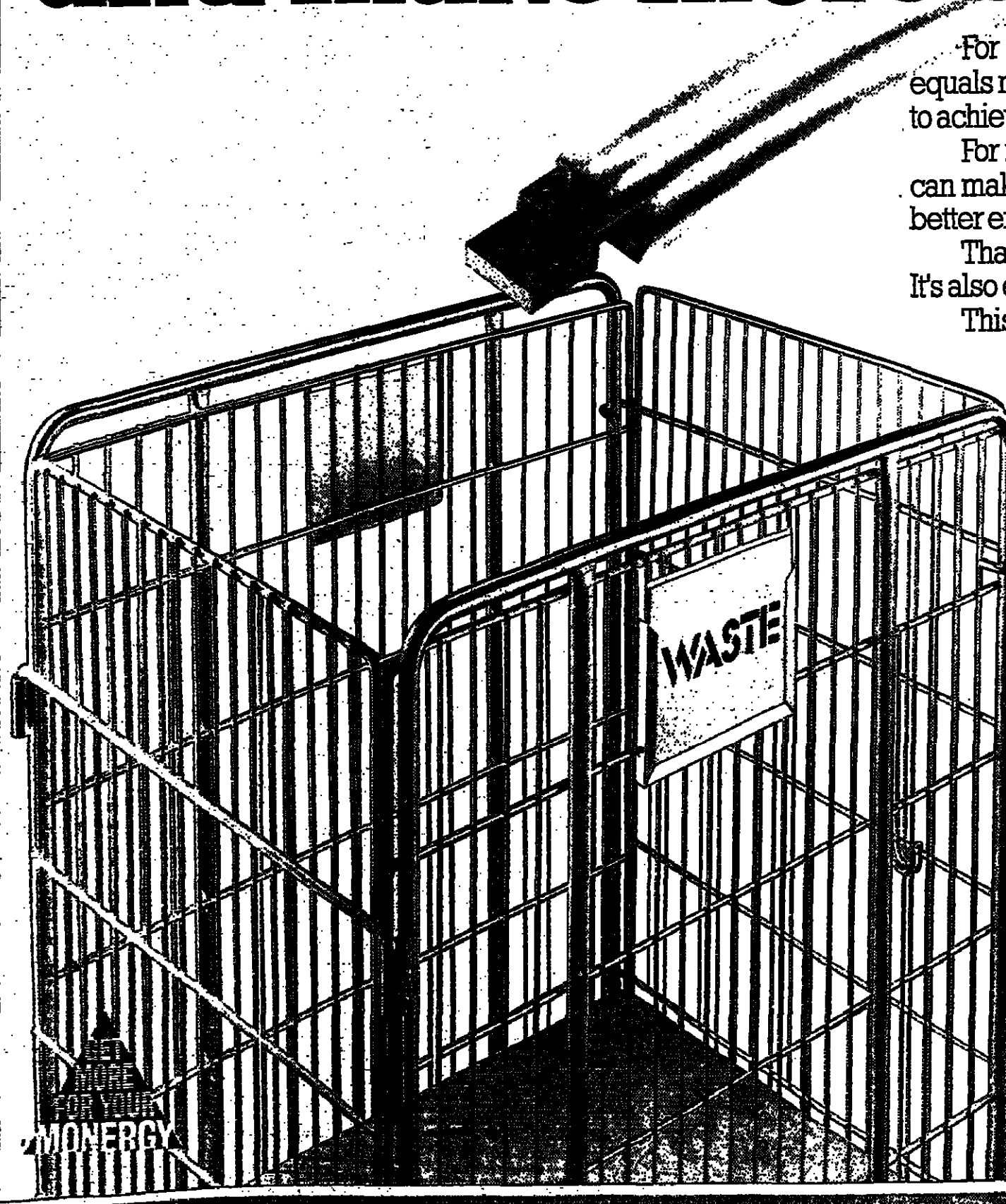
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Underwoods (180p) 185 dn 2 Wellcome (120p) 171 1/2 W York Hosp (90p) 80 (140p) — 146 dn 1

RIGHTS ISSUES Cray Elec F/P 298 dn 2 Harwells N/P 4 Peel Hdggs F/P 475 Porter Chad F/P 3 T Cowie 145p +25 Appleyard 106p +13 Bramall 260p +7 S W Berisford 202p +9 Laura Ashley 230p +26 Home Charm 354p +66 AG Stanley 81p +7 Richards 65p +7 W Cannock 100p +7 Holt Lloyd 87p +3 ICI 927p +10

RISES: UKO Intl 186p +14 Newman Tonks 130p +13 Pilkington 436p +7 D Crucch 156p +11 Molins 174p +16 Glynwed 316p +8 Telematrix 98p +6 VG Instruments 378p +8 T Cowie 145p +25 Appleyard 106p +13 Bramall 260p +7 S W Berisford 202p +9 Laura Ashley 230p +26 Home Charm 354p +66 AG Stanley 81p +7 Richards 65p +7 W Cannock 100p +7 Holt Lloyd 87p +3 ICI 927p +10

Throw away fewer widgets and make more spondulicks.



For manufacturers, the equation is simple: fewer rejects equals more profits. Simple to understand, and probably simpler to achieve than you think. For instance, using gas as a fuel in your production process can make it more reliable, with less wastage—often achieving a better end product altogether. That's because gas is the clean, efficient, high quality fuel. It's also economical to use, giving significant savings in fuel costs. This can result in increased productivity, a lower unit cost and greater profitability. But that's not the end of the story. With the advances made by modern technology in the past few years, gas is more versatile and efficient than ever, and even simpler to maintain. Converting to gas can be a matter of just changing the burner in your existing system. Or we can help you develop a whole new manufacturing process, with the assurance of plentiful supplies of gas long into the future. Even a major investment in gas can pay for itself in no time at all with the day to day savings in running costs it will make. And your competitors could end up paying too, by losing market share to your better, less expensive product. To arrange an appointment with the industrial specialist of your local British Gas region, dial 100 and ask for FREEPHONE INDUSTRIAL GAS. It's one phone call that could be worth a lot of money. British Gas Gas fuels profits.

FAMILY MONEY/1

Edited by Lorna Bourke

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Over 20% p.a. pre tax return on shareholders' fund is anticipated in the medium term.

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No Directors or promoters privileges - Directors rewards only performance related after shares have increased by 61%
Tax Relief available in both 1985/86 & 1986/7
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To obtain a Prospectus please complete coupon and send to: Robert Fraser & Partners Limited 29 Albemarle Street, London W1X 3FA or Phone: 01-200 0200 (24hrs-7days)

Form with fields for Name, Address, and a note to send a copy of the Prospectus of First Retail Stores PLC.

New is better - at least in UK unit trusts

An old investment theory of many a unit-trust portfolio manager is that new funds, because they are small, can deal actively and can always out-perform the old-established trusts.

Mr Seager, from Whitchurch Securities, said: "The results for the UK were quite short of amazing, with 90 per cent of the funds beating the average. The bulk of them were in the top 25 per cent, a good number were in the top 10 per cent and the actual winner was often a new fund."

We confined our research to the new funds launched in 1984 and 1985 and looked at all new trusts investing in the UK, North America Japan and the international sectors. We monitored them over their first six and 12 months of life. In the overseas sectors the results were less spectacular but still very good.

Using his research, Mr Seager has come up with the idea of a new funds portfolio, designed to take advantage of this better performance. Details from Mr Seager at Whitchurch Securities, Freeport, Taddington TW11 8BR (Tel: 01 977 8955).

A 200% rise?

Would you like to know how to double the pension you could expect to receive at retirement age without any extra cost? The information can be found in a pensions survey which reviews the performance of all personal pension plans over the last five years, highlighting the fact that the difference between having the best-performing pension plan compared with the worst can be a 200 per cent increase in the pension paid at retirement age.

Copies of the pension survey are being given away free by Money Magazine. If you would like a copy simply

BUILDING SOCIETY CASH CARD



write to the magazine at 86 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9JR, or phone 01 248 4016.

On a plate

The idea of getting something for nothing never loses its charm and shareholder perks - freebies or discounts given to those who hold a certain company's shares - are no exception.

Latest up-market offer comes from Limoges Porcelaine Limited, the French-based fine china producer, which is offering Limoges Porcelaine at factory prices for those who have 1,000 or more shares.

The shareholder simply selects the items required from the catalogue supplied, completes the order form and sends it with a cheque. For example, a 45-piece dinner service costs the shareholder £340, compared with the retail price of £400. If your stockbroker has difficulty getting hold of shares for you, mention that they are quoted in Vancouver but dealings take place under Stock Exchange Rule 535(4). The

Knowledge share

Shareholders who acquired a taste for investment by staging British Telecom, Laura Ashley and other new issues might want to improve their knowledge of share ownership by attending one of two short evening sessions being put on by the City of London Polytechnic.

Entitled Getting A Better Performance From Your Investments, they aim to provide the necessary background to successful share ownership.

Full details of the courses, which take place on April 22 and 24 can be obtained from City of London Polytechnic, Short Course Unit, 84 Moorgate, London EC2M 6SQ. The fee is £25 a head.

Nest egg

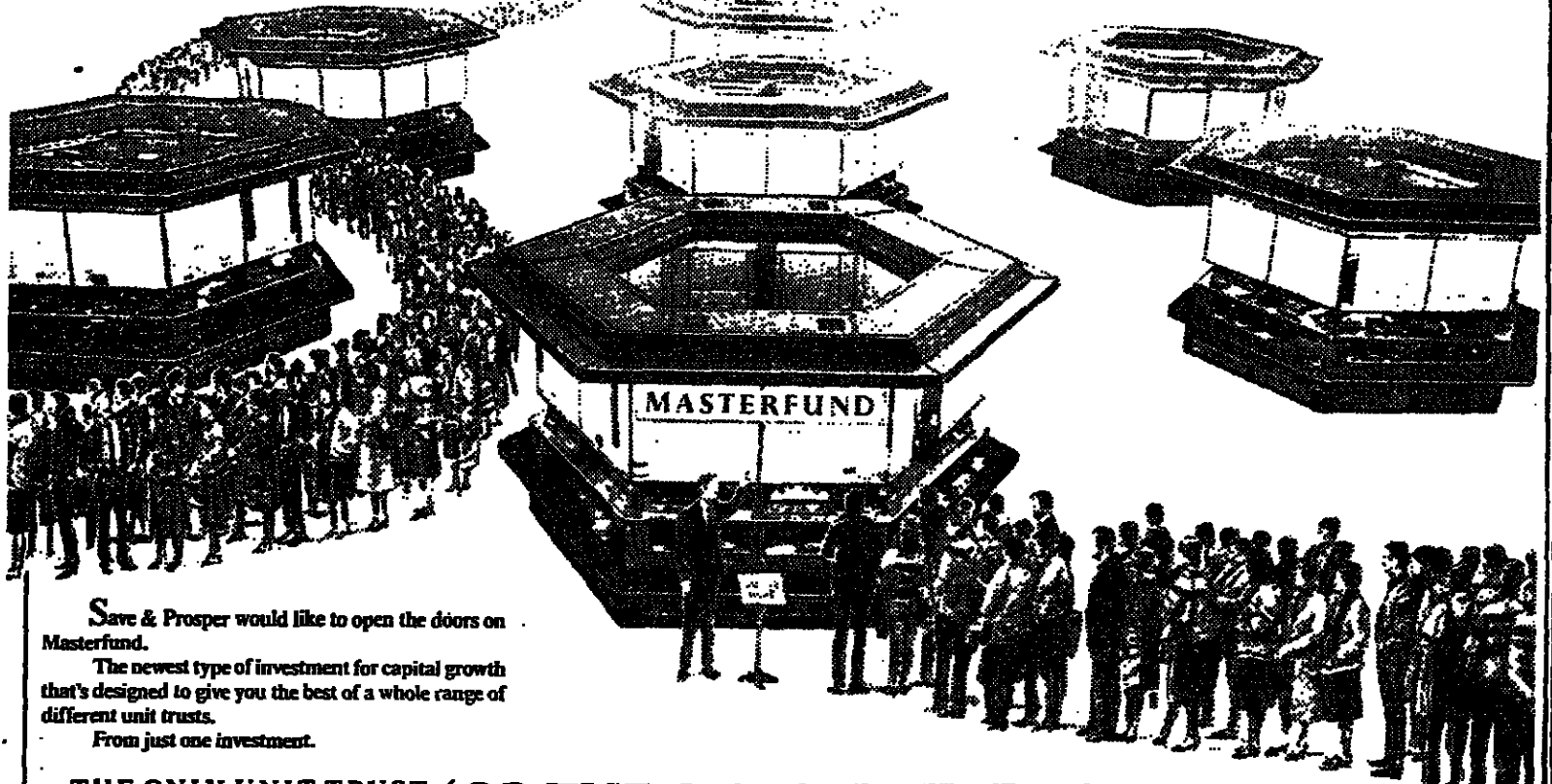
Income bonds paying a guaranteed 9.5 per cent net of basic rate tax are on offer from General Portfolio Life. You can invest for one to four years and monthly income is available for sums of £5,000 or more.

Those who do not require income can go for guaranteed capital growth, in which case a £1,000 investment will grow to be worth £1,432 at the end of a four-year term. Full details from General Portfolio Life, Valley House, Crossbrook Street, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire EN8 6JH (tel: Wattham Cross 3937).

Lloyds change

From March 10, free if-in-credit banking is introduced by Lloyds Bank while those customers who cannot keep in the black will have their bank charges calculated on a monthly rather than quarterly basis.

ONE STOP SHOPPING FROM SAVE & PROSPER.



Save & Prosper would like to open the doors on Masterfund. The newest type of investment for capital growth that's designed to give you the best of a whole range of different unit trusts.

From just one investment. THE ONLY UNIT TRUST YOU'LL EVER NEED. (OR THE ONLY UNIT TRUST YOU'LL EVER NEED.)

Far from being just one more unit trust investing in one more area, Save & Prosper's Masterfund is one of the first unit trusts to invest among other unit trusts.

27 of them, in fact, making up one of the widest and most comprehensive investment ranges there is. 1,400 different securities traded in 25 different countries - covering everything from investment trusts to Japanese smaller companies. And, (for those who like safety in numbers,) including some of the largest funds there are.

NO SHOPPING AROUND. So, instead of you having to shop around deciding which of the hundreds of unit trusts to put your money in - and when to take it out again - you can leave it to our Masterfund experts to make (and take) the decisions.

(The same experts, incidentally, who as part of one of Britain's largest unit trust groups, handle millions every day.) From start to finish they'll be switching your money into those of our trusts they think are on the

way up. And safely out of any that look at risk. All without charging you one new penny in switching fees. A PRICE TAG TO FIT THE BILL. You can invest in Masterfund from as little as £250 or from £20 a month.

Building Societies ZZZZZ There's a couple of other reasons for stopping off at Save & Prosper for your financial shopping too. (Points of interest you could say.) Investment in even the average Save & Prosper unit trust over the last five years* would have been worth 59% more than in a building society ordinary share account.

And 74% more than in a seven day bank deposit account. So while you should leave short term savings lying quietly within reach, it's paid to date to put long-term savings out to work.

Form with fields for Name, Address, Telephone, and a note to send a copy of the Prospectus of Masterfund.

Your restaurant dream may have to wait

Owning a pub, small hotel or newspaper shop is the retirement dream of many. The difficulty is often in finding the right business for sale, at the right price and in the right area. The sale price of newsagencies has gone up by almost 25 per cent in the last 12 months, according to specialist valuers Christie & Co the leading firm of business agents.

Christie's review says: "There has been a continued and increasing demand for newsagencies in all sectors of the market and prices have dramatically increased owing to the relative lack of supply a trend we feel will continue through 1986."

Anyone wanting to buy or sell a hotel, restaurant, retail shop or other small businesses can get a package service from Christie & Co to cover everything from stock valuation to fixtures and fittings. Finance can also be arranged as part of the package. Christie & Co. is at 32 Baker Street, London W1M 2BU.

'Raising the wind'

Dearden Farrow is in the business of corporate finance and our experts have the experience and specialist knowledge to enable companies to raise additional capital. Of the right type, at the right level, at the right time.

Each company is unique and its requirements liable to change, so that there will be no standard method. We examine available alternatives - including the different forms of flotation, and brief clients as to the most suitable. Our financial advice is impartial therefore we work well alongside other professional advisers.

Our corporate finance advisers can be contacted through any of our offices throughout the country. Dearden Farrow, 1 Serjeants' Inn, London EC4Y 1JD. Telephone: 01-353 2000 Telex: 8812282 DEFA G.

Dearden Farrow in the business of creating a future. Visit us on stands A & B at the 1986 USM Exhibition on 4th and 5th March.

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for or purchase any Shares which can only be done on the terms contained in the Prospectus.



The Playhouse Theatre Company PLC

OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION Under the BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME Sponsored by CHANCERY SECURITIES PLC

of up to 1,400,000 Ordinary Shares of 50p each at £1 per Share

Investors in the Company are offered: Ownership of a major West End theatre - an important and substantial asset. The production policy is to feature major stars for limited runs prior to possible transfers elsewhere in the West End.

Andrew Treagus, Chief Executive, who has extensive experience of managing West End productions, including "A Chorus Line", "Daisy Pulls It Off" and "Starlight Express". Investor benefits (for those holding 2,500 shares or more) including priority first night bookings and the opportunity to attend first night parties.

Income Tax relief of up to 60%. Provisional BES tax approval has been obtained. Profits of about £425,000 before tax in the third year, according to illustrative profit projections (which do not constitute a profit forecast).

A substantial investment of over £1.4m per year by the Board and their associates. A 65% loan facility which means appropriate investors need only pay initially 35% of their proposed investment.

Form with fields for Name, Address, Telephone, and a note to send a copy of the Prospectus of The Playhouse Theatre Company PLC.

Table with columns for dates and times: 3-15, 3-20, 10-00.

Live Capital One

Investment information and contact details.

FAMILY MONEY/2

Oil funds in a fluid state

INVESTMENT The oil price fell below \$14 a barrel this week taking oil shares down with it...

mainly in gold share funds during the past month. The worst affected have been oil unit trusts...



Martin Ruscoe of Britannia's Universal Energy fund agrees: 'Because of the time lag between production and supply we're into lower, warm weather demand for oil.'

Final extinction is possible

potential profits after the fall. The background for oils is far from encouraging...

The cause of all the uncertainty is the demise of Opec. Despite the drastic losses suffered by oil unit trusts there is no guarantee that the funds will recover.

COMMODITY AND ENERGY FUNDS

Table with columns for 'THE BEST' and 'THE WORST' listing various funds and their performance percentages over different periods.

Source: Planned Savings

Martin Baker

FRAMLINGTON UNIT TRUST GUIDE For a free copy of our 1986 Guide, with full details of our top-performing funds...

HIGHER INTEREST RATES 30 DAY SHARE 9-15% = 9-36% = 13-37% 90 DAY SHARE 9-80% = 10-04% = 14-34% 3 YEAR SHARE 10-00% = 10-25% = 14-64%

Investors Capital Trust Number One Charlotte Square IMPORTANT POLICY CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING THE ACQUISITION OF 67.5% OF THE COMPANY BY BRITISH ASSETS TRUST

CLERICAL MEDICAL FOR THE SERIOUS INVESTOR

FIRST PUBLIC OFFER: FOUR UNIT TRUSTS TARGETED ON THE WORLD'S PREMIER STOCK MARKETS.

GENERAL INFORMATION Clerical Medical Unit Trusts are a new type of investment vehicle...

SHARE EXCHANGE If you have stockmarket investments to sell, these can generally be exchanged for units in Clerical Medical Trusts...

REGULAR SAVINGS You can build capital in Clerical Medical units through regular monthly savings of £25 or more...

HOW TO INVEST Minimum initial investment in the fund is £500 but thereafter you can add amounts of £250 upwards to your holding...

ESTABLISHED PERFORMANCE Two of the existing range of trusts designed to produce maximum income and/or growth from United Kingdom equities...

INVEST NOW FOR 1% BONUS UNITS Clerical Medical Unit Trusts Managers Limited, FREEPOST, BRISTOL, BS2 0AB

CLERICAL MEDICAL UNIT TRUSTS CONSISTENCY - STRENGTH - EXPERIENCE

WELL FOUNDED EXPERTISE Clerical Medical Unit Trust Managers Limited is a subsidiary of Clerical Medical, an established society...

INVESTING FOR SUCCESS Today, and until close of business on March 21st 1986, all eight Clerical Medical trusts are on offer with a 1% bonus...

NEW JAPAN GROWTH TRUST The Trust invests in securities of companies domiciled in Japan, selected for their potential to produce above average returns...

Framlington Personal Pensions are underwritten by Framlington Life Insurance Limited, a member of Framlington Group plc. The policies have been approved by the Inland Revenue under Sections 226 and 226A of the Income and Corporation Taxes 1970 (as amended). Framlington Group plc is primarily an investment company specialising in unit trusts, with funds under management of over £360 million and over 65,000 investors.

FRAMLINGTON PERSONAL PENSIONS

A 100 per cent investment in Framlington unit trusts

IF YOU HAVE A NON-PENSIONABLE JOB you can invest in the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund of Framlington unit trusts and have your investment fully allowed against tax. You can invest either through a single premium (minimum £500) or through monthly premiums (minimum £50 per month). Either way, the whole of your investment goes to buy units. There are no additional charges.

YOUR INVESTMENT

The Pensions Managed Fund was formed in January 1985 to provide a balanced selection of Framlington unit trusts chosen and managed with the aim of achieving maximum total return over the long term. The proportions in the different trusts are varied continuously, but on 25th February 1986 were as follows:

American & General Fund	16.5 per cent
American Turnaround Fund	7.3 per cent
Capital Trust	12.1 per cent
Convertible & Gilt Trust	7.3 per cent
European Fund	5.0 per cent
Extra Income Trust	6.4 per cent
Income Trust	7.2 per cent
International Growth Fund	20.3 per cent
Japan & General Fund	11.1 per cent
Recovery Trust	6.8 per cent

The value of the Fund was £3.8 million and the price of units was 61.0p, up 22 per cent from the initial offer price of 50p.

The strong international diversification of the fund reflects Framlington's belief that for secure growth a wide spread of investments is essential. Within the underlying funds 41% is currently invested in Britain, 39% in North America, 5% in continental Europe and 15% in Japan.

The quality of Framlington investment management is high: a recent *Planned Savings* survey of unit trust groups in the 1980's shows that of the 22 groups with five funds or more at the start of the decade, Framlington has had the best average performance (+268.2% to 1st January 1986).

You can also invest through Framlington Personal Pensions in the individual Framlington unit trusts. Details are available on request from Framlington Life.

HOW YOUR POLICY WORKS

The main features of Framlington Personal Pensions are as follows:

1. If you take out a single premium Personal Pension, you do not commit yourself to more than one payment.
2. If you take out a monthly premium plan, you can stop it at any time without penalty (after you have invested at least £1,000 in total) and you can also increase or decrease your contribution at any time.
3. You can make investments at any age under 75. You can take up your benefits at any time between age 60 and age 75.
4. You can take all your benefits as a pension or use part of your accumulated fund to provide a tax-free cash sum on your retirement, as you wish.
5. The value of your pension (including the optional cash sum) will always be the full value of the units allocated to your Framlington Personal Pension.
6. Contributions to Framlington Personal Pensions are normally fully allowable against tax. The whole of your investment builds up free of all income and capital gains taxes.

Simplicity, flexibility, tax efficiency and investment ability are all hallmarks of the Framlington scheme. In addition, the scheme is exceptionally cost-effective. There are no charges apart from the charges within the funds.

FOLLOWING THE PROGRESS OF YOUR PENSION INVESTMENT

With single premium Framlington Personal Pensions, your contributions will be invested in accumulation units of Framlington Pensions Managed Fund at the offer price ruling on the day your Application Form and cheque are received. For monthly premium Personal Pensions, your first contribution will be invested on the allocation day (the 8th of the month) after your Application Form and cheque are received; subsequent contributions will be invested on the 8th day of each month.

The prices of the Pensions Managed Fund are calculated each working day and are published in several leading daily newspapers. Two prices are shown: the offer price (at which units are allocated to your Framlington Personal Pension) and the bid price (which is used to determine the value of the units accumulated on your behalf).

You will be sent a statement each year showing the number and value of units allocated to your Framlington Personal Pension. Managers' reports on the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund are published each year.

SWITCHING BETWEEN FUNDS

Over the years investment conditions change and you may feel that you wish to change the investment links for your Framlington Personal Pension. In particular, when you are approaching retirement, you might wish to switch to the Framlington Pensions Cash

Fund which is invested in bank deposits and other totally secure investments. This would ensure that you would not suffer from any short-term fluctuations in the value of your accumulated pension fund immediately before your retirement. If you do decide to switch your policy(ies) to the Pensions Cash Fund, your existing units will be valued (at bid price) and this value will be applied to secure units in the Pensions Cash Fund at the price ruling on the day your instructions are received.

If you switch to a unit trust (from the Pensions Managed Fund, another unit trust, or the Pensions Cash Fund), the existing units will be valued at bid price and the units of the new Trust will be allocated at the offer price ruling on the day your instructions are received, less a discount of 3%.

It should be noted that Framlington reserves the right to vary the discount at any time in the future or to impose a charge for switching to the Pensions Cash Fund.

INCREASING OR REDUCING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

With single premium Framlington Personal Pensions, you do not commit yourself to more than the one payment. Your policy continues automatically until you decide to start drawing the benefits - any time between your 60th and 75th birthdays - without further action from you. If you wish to pay further contributions, you can simply take out additional single premium Framlington Personal Pensions at any time.

With monthly premium Framlington Personal Pensions, you can increase your regular monthly contribution to any amount, or decrease it (but not below the minimum of £50) at any time. You can also pay in additional single premiums (minimum currently £100) when you start your plan or at any time subsequently. Additional premiums will be invested on the first allocation day (the 8th of the month) after your cheque has been received.

You can miss a regular monthly premium - but if more than three are missed consecutively, Framlington will have the right to make your policy "paid-up" and to refuse any further premiums. You can decide at any time that you do not want to pay any further premiums and make your policy paid-up: the units allocated to your policy will continue to grow in value until you decide to draw the benefits.

If you make your policy paid-up, or more than three monthly premiums are missed, before premiums totalling £1,000 have been paid, Framlington will have the right to impose a charge against the units allocated to the policy. This charge will not exceed 5% of the difference between £1,000 and the total of premiums paid.

ELIGIBILITY

You can invest in a Framlington Personal Pension if you have any earnings from non-pensionable

Good returns....simplicity....proven long term record....100 per cent from day one.

When single premium Framlington Personal Pensions were introduced early in 1985, there was widespread favourable comment.

The Financial Times said: "The plan is for the self-employed and employees in non-pensionable employment. It offers prospects of good returns, because of its investment expertise and its low charging structure."

The Sunday Telegraph said: "Out have gone all those confusing sub-clauses and pointless extras which clutter up personal pensions. Out, too, have gone those nasty charges you need a magnifying glass to notice."

The Observer said: "The chief selling-point of Framlington's no-nonsense pension arrangements is that contributors will be investing for their retirement in unit trusts, most of which have a proven long-term track record of impeccable pedigree."

When we launched our monthly premium plan this year, *The Times* added: "Fierce competition in the personal pensions market is good news for consumers - charges are coming down. The market leader in this field is fund managers Framlington... whereas most pension plans allocate less than 100 per cent of premiums to investment, the Framlington plan gives you 100 per cent from day one."

employment. You can therefore take out a Personal Pension if:-

1. You are self-employed.
2. Your employer does not have a pension scheme.
3. Your employer has a pension scheme but you are not a member of it.
4. You are a partner in a partnership.
5. You are the sole proprietor of a business.
6. You have consultancy or other earnings (apart from your main income from employment) which are non-pensionable.

HOW MUCH ARE YOU ALLOWED TO INVEST?

The minimum investment is £500 for single premium Framlington Personal Pensions and £50 per month for monthly premium plans. The maximum amount you can invest is laid down by Government legislation and is based on your "net relevant earnings". These are your gross earnings (other than any earnings from employment which carries pension rights), less expenses connected with running your own business - including stock relief and capital allowances.

If you were born in 1934 or later you can contribute 17½% of your net relevant earnings to a personal pension plan. If you were born in 1933 or earlier, you can make larger contributions as shown below:-

Year of Birth	Percentage of Net Relevant Earnings
1916-1933	20%
1914 or 1915	21%
1912 or 1913	24%
1911	26½%

There are provisions for carrying back contributions to the preceding tax year and for carrying forward unused relief from up to six previous years to the current year.

HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU INVEST?

Because of the outstanding tax advantages, it can be argued that you should invest the maximum permitted every year. On the other hand, even with tax relief you may not be able to afford the maximum.

If it were possible to make realistic projections it would be easier to suggest the amount you should invest. Many insurance companies do quote projections. In our view, however, these can be dangerously misleading. They are normally only arithmetical projections of rates of growth and annuity rates chosen arbitrarily. They cannot cater for changes in inflation rates or variations in investment performance. We believe it is more realistic to choose as efficient as possible a scheme and then to put as much as you can into it.

As a guide, and accepting that your own personal circumstances may dictate a different proportion, we urge you to invest at least the following proportions of your net relevant earnings in personal pension plans:

Age	%
Under 25	5%
25-35	10%
35-45	15%
Over 45	17½%

(If you were born in 1933 or earlier you should invest the maximum allowed.)

TAX ADVANTAGES

Investing in a personal pension plan has significant tax advantages over every other method of saving and investing.

Tax relief on contributions
Provided your contributions fall within the rules you can obtain full income tax relief on them at the highest rate you currently pay. Thus if you are a basic rate taxpayer, a contribution of £1,000 will in effect cost you only £700. If your top rate of tax is 60%, a contribution of £1,000 should cost you only £400.

Tax-free investment growth
Your contributions are invested by Framlington Life in units of Framlington unit trusts, through the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund. Unit trusts and pension funds are both exempt from capital gains tax. Pension funds are also exempt from income tax; Framlington Life is therefore able to claim back and reinvest on your behalf the income tax charged on the income distributed by the unit trusts.

Tax-free cash sum on retirement
Under current legislation you are entitled to take a cash sum, which is completely free of tax, as part of your pension.

THE BENEFITS ON RETIREMENT

No Fixed Retirement Date
You can take the benefits from your Framlington Personal Pension at any time between the ages of 60 and 75; the latest date on which you are allowed by law to start drawing your pension is your 75th birthday. You do not have to decide on your retirement date now.

If you are in an occupation where the normal retirement age is below 60, you can usually take your pension at this lower age, subject to Inland Revenue approval.

You can also take the benefits earlier than age 60 if you have to retire early because of ill-health.

At whatever age you take the benefits, the full value of your accumulated fund will be made available to you. No deductions of any sort are made on early retirement.

Pension and Cash Sum at Retirement

At retirement you can choose between using the whole value of your accumulated fund to provide a pension and taking part of the benefits as a tax-free cash sum, with the balance providing a pension. If you decide to take part of your benefits in cash, the amount must not be more than three times the annual pension provided by the remainder.

You may choose a pension of a fixed amount or one which starts at a lower level but escalates by a fixed percentage (up to 10%) each year. You can also choose between a pension for your lifetime alone, one guaranteed for 5 years and one which would continue to be paid to your widow (or widower) if you were to die first.

The pension can be paid monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or annually as you prefer. You also have a choice of who will actually provide the benefits: 1. Through the "Open Market Option". At retirement you can use the fund built up through your Framlington Personal Pension to purchase a pension at the best rates obtainable from any company in the market.

or
2. From Framlington Life. The rates available will depend upon conditions at the time and may not be as good as you would be able to obtain through the "Open Market Option".

BENEFITS ON DEATH BEFORE RETIREMENT

The amount payable on death will be the full value (at bid price) of the units allocated to your policy. If you are under 55 it is possible to take out a single premium Framlington Personal Pension which provides guaranteed life assurance benefits - but with a 3% deduction from the units allocated. Details are available from Framlington Life.

MANAGEMENT CHARGES

100% of your contributions are invested on your behalf. There are no extra charges over and above the normal annual and initial charges for

the unit trusts, in which the Pensions Managed Fund is invested.

The Trust Deed of each unit trust allows an annual charge of up to 1% (+ VAT) of the value of the fund to be deducted from its income, although on funds invested wholly in the U.K. the charge is currently only ¾%. The initial charge, which is included in the offer price of the units, is 5%.

There are at present no direct annual charges for the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund - although the normal annual charges are deducted for the unit trusts (or the Framlington Pensions Cash Fund - ½%). The initial charge for the Pensions Managed Fund, which is included in the offer price of the units, is 5%; the prices of the Fund take account of the initial charges of the unit trusts - so there is no "double-charging".

Commission of 1¼% is paid to agents for single premium Framlington Personal Pensions. No commission is payable for monthly premium plans.

LOAN FACILITIES

Loan facilities can be provided by Courts Finance Co. Details are available on request.

NOTES

1. This advertisement is based on Framlington Life's understanding of legislation and Inland Revenue practice as at 1st February 1986.

2. Framlington Life can take no responsibility for determining whether or not contributions to Framlington Personal Pensions fall within the eligibility limits for the individuals concerned. If you are in any doubt whether your contributions will attract tax relief, you should consult a professional adviser.

3. All allocations to units under the Framlington Personal Pension are notional and merely for the purposes of determining the value of your policy; references to "investment" and "invested" should not be construed as conferring any right to the underlying units.

4. This advertisement is intended to provide information about Framlington Personal Pensions. Rights as between investors and Framlington Life will be governed solely by the terms of the policies. Specimen policy documents for Framlington Personal Pensions can be obtained from Framlington Life Insurance Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, EC2M 5JQ.

Unit trusts invest in securities with prices that fluctuate and you should be aware that the price of units linked to Framlington Personal Pensions and the income from them reinvested on your behalf may go down as well as up.

HOW TO APPLY

Simply complete the Application Form and send it with your cheque for the single premium or your first contribution to a monthly premium plan to:

Framlington Life Insurance Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London Wall, London EC2M 5JQ. Telephone No. 01-628 5181.

The minimum investment is £500 for single premium Personal Pensions and £50 per month for monthly premium plans.

APPLICATION FORM

Please send the completed form to Framlington Life Insurance Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5JQ.

PROPOSER (Please use block capitals)
Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title) _____
Full Forenames _____
Address _____
Date of Birth _____
Occupation _____

ELIGIBILITY Please tick appropriate box

1 Are you engaged on your own account or as a partner personally acting in some trade, profession or occupation? Yes No

2 (a) Are you an employed person (or the holder of an office or employment)? Yes No

Note: A consulting directorship of a company whose income consists wholly or mainly of investment income is not an office or employment for this purpose (see Section 226(9) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970).

2 (b) If YES, is one or more of your occupation(s) non-pensionable? Yes No

Note: An occupation is pensionable if in connection therewith you are a member of a sponsored superannuation scheme which is any scheme or arrangement from which you expect to receive a retirement benefit, whether as lump sum or pension form, which will not have been wholly provided out of your own resources.

SINGLE PREMIUM

I enclose my cheque (payable to "Framlington Life Insurance Limited") for £_____ (minimum £500) for a single premium Framlington Personal Pension Plan (1986).

I wish the premium to be applied for investment in the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund.

MONTHLY PREMIUM PLAN

I wish to start a monthly premium Framlington Personal Pension Plan (1986) for £_____ (minimum £50) per month.

I enclose my cheque for £_____ for my first contribution (this can be for a larger amount than your subsequent monthly premium) made payable to "Framlington Life Insurance Limited".

I wish the premium to be applied for investment in the Framlington Pensions Managed Fund.

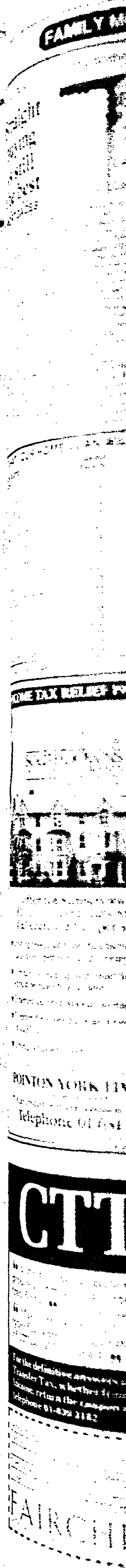
DECLARATION

I declare that the statements contained in this Application are true and complete and that I have net relevant earnings taxed in the UK. I agree that this Application shall be the basis of the proposed contract between me and Framlington Life Insurance Limited to provide benefits allowable under Section 226 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970. I further understand that no benefit under this Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

Signed _____ Date _____

Registered Office as above Registered in England No 1689376

FRAMLINGTON



FAMILY MONEY/3

Low-cost endowment home loans stay out of favour

Straight buying is still the best

MORTGAGES

"For the first time in living memory we are advertising mortgages," says David Blake of the Woolwich Building Society. And this week in an attempt to woo buyers, three of the four high street banks removed the differential charged to borrowers who opt for an endowment-linked mortgage.

The banks now all charge a flat 13 per cent for all home loans. Buyers could be forgiven for thinking they have never had it so good. But is this really so? Why do not the societies bring down their rates - rather than advertise home loans?

"They don't think like that but I would expect to see a general freeing-up of the market quite quickly now with more and more societies doing away with differentials for



endowment loans," explained Adrian Coles of the Building Societies Association.

A 0.5 per cent cut for endowment borrowers now has the same effect as 0.25 per cent off the mortgage rate for all borrowers as around 50 per cent of all outstanding home loans are arranged on an endowment basis.

"With the introduction of MIRAS (Mortgage Interest Relief at Source) a huge amount of building society business was done on an endowment basis," explains Mr Coles.

Even today, with the removal of LAMP (Life Assurance Premium Relief), most of the major societies are signing up around 50 per cent of their borrowers on an endowment basis. The absence of tax relief on the endowment policy has

not deterred societies from promoting this type of loan as they earn huge commissions on endowment policies.

Although this week's reduction to bank-borrowers taking out an endowment loan is an improvement, the repayment loan is still the cheapest.

Norwich Union, which has one of the most competitive low-cost endowment schemes, quotes the following rates for a 32-year-old, wanting a £30,000 loan over 25 years. Total after-tax monthly repayments for a straight repayment loan with a mortgage protection policy are £258.47, while the low-cost endowment works out at £261.63. The cheapest of all, if you are eligible for a self-employed pension plan, is a pension-linked loan where the after-tax monthly cost is £257.11.

"I don't understand why the societies continue to push endowment-linked loans because it certainly is not the cheapest way of buying a home," said Craig Bonnar, of financial advisers Fairchilds.

He quotes the example of a 40-year-old wanting a 25-year £40,000 loan. The net monthly cost after tax relief of a repayment loan is £375.81, while the low-cost endowment costs £387.98 after tax relief.

Undoubtedly the most seductive of the banks' offers is the Midland's scheme. For the next three months new Midland home-buyers get a 0.5 per cent reduction for one year in their mortgage interest charge - but more important, customers who move their mortgage to the Midland from other lenders will have valuation and legal fees paid by Midland.

If, for example, you are one of the unfortunate borrowers still paying over the odds for your money - say 13.5 per cent - you can transfer to the Midland and pay only 13 per cent without incurring any expenses at all.

NatWest's improvements include 95 per cent home loans for first-time buyers - 90 per cent for all others - compared with a previous 80 per cent maximum. The multiple of income which you can borrow has also been improved - three times earnings for single people, or three times the main income plus the second income for a couple.

Choosing the cheapest loan is still tricky since, as our table shows, societies and banks may quote the same mortgage rate but because of the varying

WHAT YOUR HOME LOAN WILL COST

Bank/Building Society	Interest Rate %	APR %
Halifax	12.75	13.9
Abbey National	12.75	13.7
Nationwide	12.75	13.9
Leeds Permanent	12.75	13.7
Woolwich	12.75	13.9
Alliance & Leicester (over £20,000)	13.00	13.8
National & Provincial	12.75	13.9
Anglia	12.75	13.8
Bradford & Bingley (£20,000 to £50,000) (over £50,000)	12.75 / 13.00	13.8 / 13.5
Britannia	13.25	13.8
Cheltenham & Gloucester	12.65	13.8
Bristol & West	12.75	13.8
NatWest	13.00	14.1
Barclays	13.00	13.8
Lloyds	13.00	13.9
Midland	13.00	13.7
TSB	13.25	14.3
Royal Bank of Scotland	12.75	13.5

Source: Woolwich Building Society

INCOME TAX RELIEF 1985/86

Offer for Subscription of 1,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each at £1.10 per share.

- Existing freehold hotel has increased in value by 94 per cent in 2 1/2 years.
- Company is trading. BES relief for 1985/86 should be quickly available.
- Experienced professional management.
- Founder directors have an investment of £233,614.
- Strong net asset cover.

Copies of the Prospectus available from **POINTON YORK LIMITED** (a member of NASDD) 7, Cavendish Square, London W1M 9HA Telephone 01-631 3015

This advertisement is not an invitation to invest in shares.

The same rates that can vary

ways in which they calculate interest, the APR can vary. According to the latest edition of *Blip's Mortgage Guide*, "it is currently possible to pay between 12.5 per cent and 14.5 per cent for a £30,000 repayment mortgage, which can mean a difference of more than £30 a month on a 25-year term loan".

Relatively unknown lenders such as Allied Arab Bank, United Bank of Kuwait, Buckinghamshire, Chesham & Hanley Economic, Herne Bay and Loughborough Permanent building societies, all of which charge only 12.5 for their loans, are the ones to go for.

Lorna Bourke

Offer for Subscription under the terms of the **BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME**

Sponsored by **ELECTRA MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED** and **GUIDEHOUSE LIMITED**

of up to 1,477,120 Ordinary Shares of 10p each at 145p per share payable in full on application

PLEASUREWORLD PLC

Pleasureworld PLC has two subsidiaries which operate the Gunton Hall Holiday Centre and the adjoining Pleasureworld Hills American Theme Park, situated in Lowestoft, Suffolk. The Company owns in total 136 acres of freehold and long leasehold land on which these businesses operate and pro-forma net tangible assets per share at 31st December 1985 amounted to approximately 191p. The Directors intend to recommend the payment of dividends, which on the basis of the projected profit for the year to 31st March 1986, should give a dividend yield of around 3.4% for that year. The proceeds of this Offer will be used to reduce borrowings and to expand the businesses.

Prior to the issue, certain institutional and private investors have subscribed approximately £431,000 for shares. The minimum subscription has been underwritten by Electro Investment Trust P.L.C. and by Guidehouse Limited. As the Company has been trading for over 4 months, certificates for claiming BES tax relief should be available shortly after allotment.

The Offer will close as soon as the Offer is fully subscribed or at 3.00 p.m. on 16th April 1986 unless extended prior to that date. There will be an initial allotment on 17th March 1986.

Copies of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone applications for shares may be made, may be obtained from either of the following addresses:

Guidehouse Limited, Vestry House, Grayfriars Passage, Newgate Street, London EC2A 7SA Tel: 01-638 7071

Electra Management Services Limited, Temple Place, Victoria Embankment, London WC2R 2BP Tel: 01-240 8585

Please send me a copy of the Prospectus for Pleasureworld PLC. T 1/3

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Eagle Star Group

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SAVING C.T.T.?

If so Eagle Star's new Rainbow Capital Protection Plan offers a simple way to do just that.

You can retain an absolute right to some or all of your capital with the comfort of an income to use as you wish plus a substantial potential CTT saving. Send for details today.

To: Eagle Star Group
FREEPOST, Bath Road,
Cheltenham, GL53 3BR

I understand that your Rainbow Capital Protection Plan can:-

- * Build a CTT-free fund for my family/other beneficiaries
- * Pay me "tax-free" income
- * Allow me to receive back up to the total sum I have invested - leaving the growth for my family, free from CTT. Please send me full details.

Name _____

Address _____

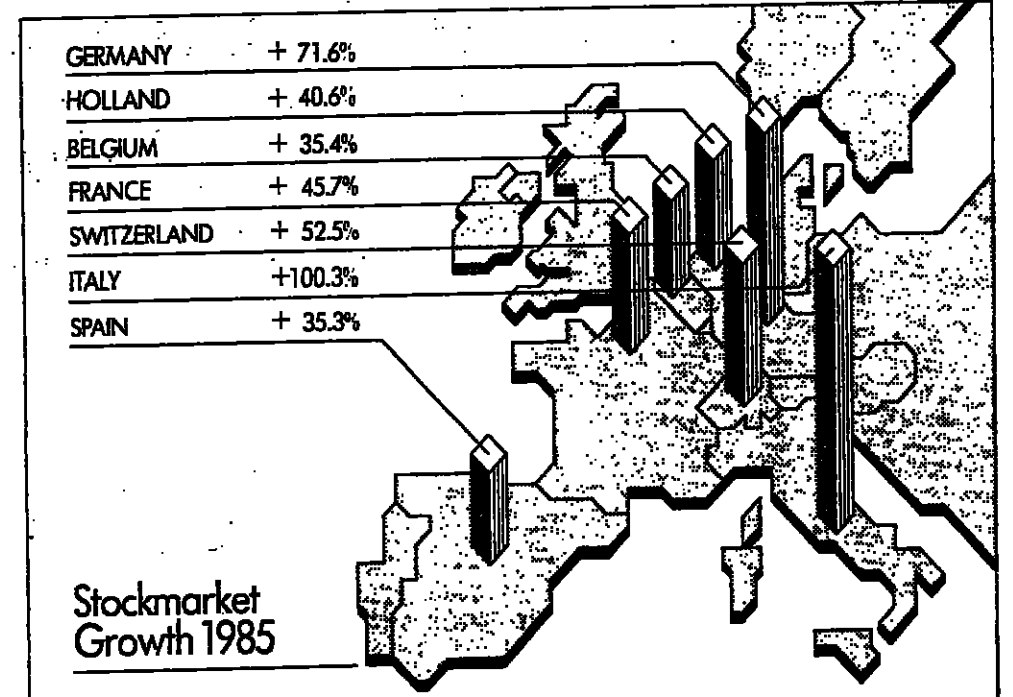
Postcode _____

Name and address of Financial Adviser (if any) _____

Eagle Star Group T1/3

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Take advantage of our launch offer and discount (see below) and of Europe's continuing prospects for growth.

General Information for Investors.

Acknowledgement will be sent and certificates issued within 30 days. Unit prices and yield are published daily in leading national newspapers. Units can be sold back to the Managers at not less than the current bid price calculated to a formula approved by the Department of Trade and Industry.

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The Trust Deed permits investment in traded options and in second markets within the guidelines laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Trust's income distribution date is 1st April in respect of the period ending 1st February. The first distribution is scheduled for 1st April 1987.

Remuneration is payable to qualified intermediaries and can be available on request. Trustees: Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, 119 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1AQ. Managers: Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited, Telephone: 01-638 2777. Registered Office: 80 Colman Street, London EC2R 5AD. Member of The Unit Trust Association.

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السنة الجديدة

FAMILY MONEY/4

How the public lost thousands through insurance offices

SAVINGS
 This week new regulations concerning the way in which life insurance products are sold were published. These place heavy emphasis on the role of the insurance company to monitor properly those who sell their products. A complaint to *The Times* reveals just how far the industry has to go to come anywhere near these new high standards.

Members of the public have lost hundreds of thousands of pounds through an insurance intermediary and life offices involved in the loss are refusing to help them. Details are still emerging, but at the moment companies such as Scottish Provident, Clerical Medical, Equity and Law, Friends Provident and Scottish Equitable are refusing to acknowledge any liability - legal or moral - towards the victims, some of whom have lost their life savings or pension provisions. Clerical Medical is being sued in the High Court by the trustees of a company pension scheme who claim to have lost £186,000. Friends Provident is being sued for £25,000. It is open to question how astute the mutual life office, Scottish Provident, was in checking the credentials of the insurance intermediary concerned. The Scottish Provident branch manager told *The Times* this week: "You can guard the public only so far." The facts of the case reveal how apparently slipshod life offices can be when it comes to checking the credentials of intermediaries or brokers to whom they grant agency arrangements. They also reveal how life offices such as Scottish Provident will allow their name to be touted by intermediaries in such a way as to suggest that they endorse that intermediary, while their legal arrangement, behind the scenes, purport to deny that the intermediary is their agent in law. In essence, hundreds of thousands of pounds of insurance premiums and pension contributions paid to the particular intermediary by members of the public or trustees of pension schemes have gone missing. The life offices to whom the payments were to be forwarded say that they never received them. The broker intermediary has been compulsorily wound up. For legal reasons we can not name the person or the company. Nevertheless there are examples of the disgraceful behaviour of life offices over this matter that we can highlight. Take the case of a garage owner, who in 1981 made two separate payments of £2,000 and £3,000 to the intermediary - whom we shall call Joe Bloggs Ltd - to fund an "E" type pension policy he wanted to start up with the Scottish Provident. The garage owner at the time already had a similar Scottish Provident policy through another company he ran. Scottish Provident says it never received a proposal form, let alone the premiums. But Scottish Provident did have what is known in the trade as an agency agreement with Joe Bloggs Ltd, as did a number of other life offices. According to the agreement terms, Joe Bloggs Ltd was allowed to display Scottish Provident literature, posters and other promotional material. The Scottish Provident branch manager says: "A leaflet stand is allowed. You can also put up posters from Scottish Provident." The net effect, for members of the public, is at least to imply an endorsement of Joe Bloggs Ltd by Scottish Provident. But behind the scenes, in the small print of the agency agreement, Scottish Provident had stipulated that the payment of premiums to Joe Bloggs Ltd was not payment to Scottish Provident Ltd. In other words, Joe Bloggs Ltd, though free to tout the Scottish Provident name to get business, was not an agent for Scottish Provident. So what checks did Scottish Provident run to establish the credentials of Joe Bloggs Ltd? The branch manager said this week: "It was a member of the British Insurance Brokers Association. We had the membership number."

The truth of the matter is that Scottish Provident's original agency agreement had been with a different company, which over the years changed its name and ownership, ending up as Joe Bloggs Ltd. Scottish Provident paid little attention to the changes. The branch manager said this week: "You have only to send in notice of change of title and directors. We do not necessarily make inquiries with the new directors."

Every limited company, regardless of the nature of its business has a registration number. Peter Bullough, an assistant general manager of the Scottish Provident, claimed that Joe Bloggs Ltd was registered with the Insurance Brokers Registration Council. Why then should Scottish Provident even doubt the broker's bona fides? He even quoted the IBRC number. Again this showed how little attention Scottish Provident

pay to checking agents it allows to use its name. Joe Bloggs Ltd is not, nor ever has been registered with the IBRC, and thus lacks the consumer-protection benefits that registration implies. The number that Mr Bullough so readily quoted was that of Joe Bloggs (Insurance Brokers) Ltd, an entirely separate company which has never traded. Mr Bullough told *The Times* on Thursday morning: "The problem was that the garage owner made out a cheque payable to an intermediary." In fact, both cheques were made payable to Scottish Provident.

Lawrence Lever
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TAX RELIEF FOR 1985/6
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Offer for Subscription under the terms of the Business Expansion Scheme of up to 500,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each at 52p per share.

- No minimum subscription. £300,000 has already been raised from a private placing.
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- Prospectus contains the following projections:

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4 months to 31 March 1987	(20)
Year to 31 March 1988	32
Year to 31 March 1989	628

The subscription list will open at 10.00am on Thursday 27 February 1986 and may be closed at any time thereafter; shares will be allotted on a "first come, first served" basis. A copy of the prospectus may be obtained by writing to or telephoning the Sponsors:-

LANCASHIRE & YORKSHIRE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LIMITED
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Do you qualify for a Pension Plan? If you are not included in a company scheme or you are self-employed, you are one of the 12,000,000 people who can reap the advantages of this remarkable new fund. You can now on, you can have your money invested in a building society and enjoy exactly the same tax concessions as a government-approved pension plan. So much for the sideways glance. Isn't it time you looked into the Halifax Pension Fund a little more closely?

Just fill in the coupon below and we will be happy to provide you with full details.

100 bonus if you take out a plan before March 1986.

To: The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society, 109 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN. Tel: 041-248 6231
 Please send me, without obligation, full details of your TAX FREE HALIFAX PENSION FUND.

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INCOME TAX RELIEF FOR 1985/86

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ARRANGED BY GUINNESS MAHON & CO LIMITED

British America's Cup Challenges PLC will be an exciting addition to any well-planned Business Expansion portfolio. BACC will exploit commercial opportunities arising from British participation in the America's Cup and other yachting events, revenues from which are potentially high. As such it will be involved in the growing field of sports promotion. The Company is providing the British entry for the 1987 America's Cup. It will have two yachts in Australia from which to select a challenging yacht for the 1987 America's Cup. Both British yachts have been extensively tested at scale against models similar to Australia II, the last winner, and significant performance improvements have been achieved. Harold Cudmore will be the Skipper of the 1987 British Challenge. He won the 1984 Australia Cup (the Australian Match Racing Championship) and recently skippered not only the top point-scoring yacht in the Admirals Cup but also the leading yacht in the winning British team for the Southern Cross Cup: two of the world's most important ocean racing events. The Offer closes on 14th March, 1986. Copies of the prospectus offering shares for subscription in BACC may be obtained by telephoning 01-623 9333 (24 hour service) or by completing the coupon below.

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FAMILY MONEY/5

A new referee in the field

OMBUDSMEN

The Government has now accepted the need for a Building Societies Ombudsman. It intends to table an amendment to the Building Societies Bill, either at report stage in the House of Commons or in the bill's passage through the Lords.

The call for such an appointment was first made in February last year by the National Consumer Council, according to its chairman, Michael Montagu, the present system of redress is ramshackle.

The bill is the first entirely new framework for the building society movement since 1874. The 1962 Act was a consolidating measure. The demand for an independent adjudicator follows other protection measures.

The Insurance Ombudsman was established in March 1981 by three major insurance companies - General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange and the Royal Today 160 insurers belong. And in January this year the Banking Ombudsman started work.

The fear among many consumer organisations was that a voluntary ombudsman would be established by the Building Societies Association, but that it would not be comprehensive. One of the problems with the Insurance Ombudsman is that he cannot investigate complaints involving non-member companies though most of the major insurers are now members.

Most other insurance firms belong to the Personal Insurance Arbitration Service, which does not produce annual reports and has a different status from the Insurance Ombudsman. A two-tier sys-



tem where giants in the building society movement did not belong was not in the interests of either consumers or the movement.

This is why Ian Stewart, the Government's Economic Secretary, is devising a scheme to be administered by the BSA but with statutory backing. There are European precedents. Switzerland has an insurance ombudsman, while France and some Scandinavian states operate similar schemes.

'Scope for errors is now greater'

The high street banks set up a Banking Ombudsman, who has the power to make an award binding on a bank with an upper limit of £50,000. If a customer decides not to accept the decision, he retains the full right to take legal action. Seventeen banks participate. Ian Edwards-Jones, QC, was appointed Banking Ombudsman on January 1 and will investigate grievances that came to light on and after that date.

Working parties aimed at formulating rules under which

suiting in a lower return than was reasonable to expect.

- Insistence on house insurance being for an excessive sum.
- Failure to carry out instructions to transfer funds from a lower interest account to a higher interest account.
- Failure to carry out instructions from the borrower to insure the property.

The ombudsman would also be asked to adjudicate on such matters as charging redemption interest and the practice of some societies having different rates of interest for new and existing borrowers.

As many of these areas are the matter of a code of good practice governing all lenders, the ombudsman's comments in such cases should lead societies to reconsider their policies. He would therefore have a significant effect in this indirect way, as well as the more direct effect of making awards.

It is envisaged that an independent council would appoint the Building Societies Ombudsman and decide to whom he would be accountable. Under an independent chairman, the council would comprise consumer interests and not more than one-third building society representatives. Like the Banking Ombudsman, an upper ceiling for any award would be fixed, subject to inflationary review.

The acceptance of independent ombudsmen by those providing financial services is to be welcomed. In time, because of the overlapping interests, perhaps there will be one single ombudsman to cover all investors, not unlike the Parliamentary Commissioner.

Conal Gregory

12.6% Can any other British bank cheque account do better?

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Our interest rate is an opportunity to obtain rates related to the London Money Market, and is quoted daily in the Financial Times.

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Gross Equivalent Rate	13.46%
Net Compound Annual Rate	9.84%
Gross Equivalent Compound Annual Rate	14.05%

These rates are subject to change or amendment according to market conditions.

Interest is calculated daily and credited to your High Interest Account monthly to give compounded growth.

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Your chequebook gives immediate access to your money with no loss of interest because we don't need advance notice. If you want us to, we can even arrange to make regular payments by standing order or direct debit.

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(Allied Arab Bank is registered in England, with its headquarters in the City of London, and is a fully recognised bank under the Banking Act, 1979.)

Terms and Conditions

(1) This account is available to private individuals (other than resident or non-resident in the UK, clubs, associations, charities and professional firms, but excluding corporate investors). (2) A minimum deposit of £5,000 is required to open the account and the maximum balance that may be held in the account is £100,000. (3) The rate of interest will be displayed in our branch and will be paid on balances in excess of £2,000. If the balance of the account falls to £2,000 or less, the funds will earn an interest rate of 5% below the displayed rate. Any variation due to financial market conditions will become effective immediately and investors will be advised by post 14 days in advance. The interest will be credited after the deduction of Composite Rate Tax (CRT). Providing a declaration of non-residency is received, the interest for non-UK residents will be credited in full. (5) Interest will be calculated on a daily basis on cleared credit balances and paid monthly to the account or subject to the account holder's instructions, can be credited to another account at any bank in the UK. (6) Should a balance fall below £2,000 the Bank reserves the right to credit the interest to the UK account rather than to remit interest to the account holder's overseas account. (7) Account holders are not permitted to draw items presented for payment when there are insufficient funds to be returned unpaid and a charge will be levied. (8) The Bank reserves the right to refuse a deposit or to close down an account or to require a depositor to close an account without giving a reason for any such decision. (9) In the case of a joint account in the names of two or more people, the Bank has authority to debit the account with cheques signed by any one of the signatories at the account holders. Where an overdraw is incurred the account holders are jointly and severally liable for the debt. (10) The Bank reserves the right to vary, amend or add to these terms and conditions subject to reasonable notice.

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If more than two please complete details on separate sheet.

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Signed (1) _____

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Telephone No. (Home) _____

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Date of Birth (1) _____ Occupation (1) _____

(2) _____ (2) _____

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Title of Account (for cheque books) _____

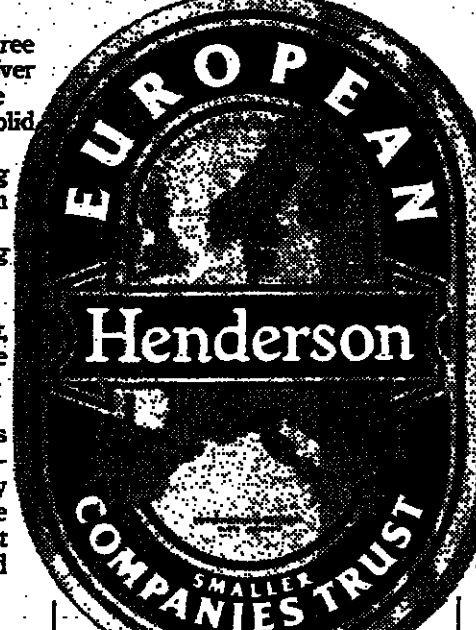
Note: (1) All parties should sign the application form (2) For accounts in the names of clubs and associations please forward a copy of the rules (3) Additional formalities may be necessary (4) If interest is to be credited to another UK banking account, advise us of bank address, sorting code number and account number.

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FIXED OFFER PRICE

Reaches the parts other unit trusts do not reach.

If you had visited two or three Continental stock exchanges over the last few weeks, you could've seen with your own eyes the solid sense of investing in Europe. Europe has got a lot going for it. In recent years, European governments have become more concerned with boosting industry and encouraging the development of newer, more efficient plants. And as a result, European company profits have begun to rise substantially. But it stands to reason that, from now on, the prospects for substantial capital growth - from whatever size of company - are more likely to lie with those European shares which haven't yet been discovered and traded up by the average institutional buyer.



Trust; or alternatively, in the Henderson European Trust (which invests in larger companies); or in both trusts through a unit linked bond. (Full details of these last two can be obtained by telephoning Pauline Carroll on 01-638 5757.)

To invest now in the Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust at the fixed offer price of 78.9p, simply complete the application form below and return it together with your cheque, either direct or through your professional adviser to arrive not later than Tuesday March 11th, 1986.

The minimum investment you can make is £500.

You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, and you should regard any investment as long term.

That's where Henderson's European Trusts, and in particular the Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust, comes in.

SMALLER COMPANIES ARE NOW CATCHING UP

In any bull market, larger companies move first and smaller companies catch up later. This has begun to happen in Europe. If other markets are a guide, it could continue for quite some time.

However, it takes an investment manager with depth of experience and a wide range of contacts across Europe to be able to pinpoint genuine European growth stocks ahead of the field.

Those are exactly the kind of shares which you will find in the Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust's portfolio.

LONG EXPERIENCE IN EUROPE

Henderson has been managing investments internationally for over 50 years. We have over £3.5 billion under management. We have been investing in Europe for over 15 years and now manage well over £400 million across all European stockmarkets.

This unusually long experience brings with it the benefit of an unusually wide spread. Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust's portfolio is currently spread between no less than 12 European countries - a wider spread than other European smaller companies trusts.

ALREADY UP 44% OVER 12 MONTHS

Since its launch on 28th January 1985, the Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust has shown an increase of 44% on an offer to bid basis including net reinvested income.

In our opinion, there is still substantial further growth in the pipeline, which is why we recommend this trust as the one to invest in today.

HOW TO INVEST

You can take advantage of Henderson's extensive European expertise either through direct investment in the Henderson European Smaller Companies

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

*Should the unit offer price move by more than 2 1/2% during the fixed price period the offer will be closed and units will be allocated at the price ruling on receipt of application.

An initial charge of 5 1/2% of the assets (equivalent of 5% of the issue price) is made by the managers, when units are issued. Out of the initial charge, managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries; rates available on request.

An annual charge of 1 1/2% (plus VAT) on the value of the Trust will be deducted from the gross income to cover administration costs with a provision in the Trust Deed to increase this to a maximum of 2% on giving 3 months written notice to unit holders.

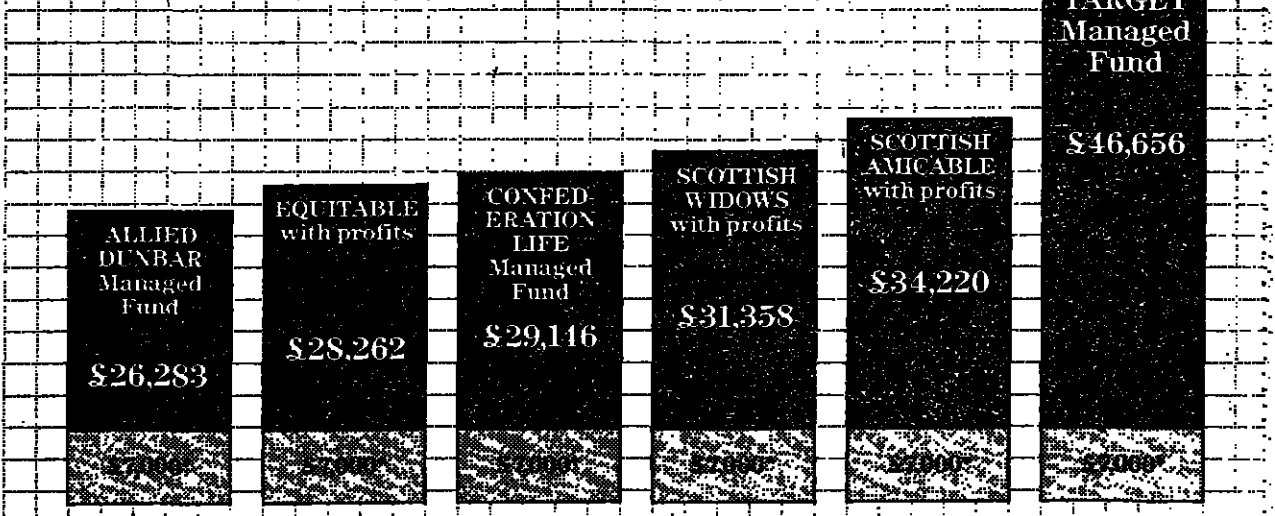
Distributions of income will be paid on 10th December. The current estimated gross annual yield is 0.35% (28.2.86).

Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within eight weeks of payment. To sell units, you must first contact the managers for payment based on the ruling bid price will normally be made within 7 working days.

Unit Trusts are not subject to capital gains tax; moreover, a unit holder will not pay this tax on a disposal of units unless his total realised gains from all sources in the tax year amount to more than £5,500 (1985/6). Prices and yields can be found daily in the Financial Times.

Trustees: Midland Bank Trust Ltd, 119 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1AQ.
Managers: Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd, 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA. (Registered Office). Registration Number: 866285 England.
A member of the Unit Trust Association.

If you're about to invest in a pension plan make sure it's the best on the market.



Prize for the most outstanding performance of the decade must still go to Target Managed. *Money Magazine - February 1986*

Target snags head and shoulders above all rivals in the pensions league coming once again top of the performance league table. *The Times - Saturday, 26th January 1985*

One Company, Target Life, can actually boast an investment record that is so superior that it can afford to pay twice the pension of some of the others. Target stole a march on its rivals, because the Managed Fund holds investments directly rather than putting money into other unit-linked funds within the group. *The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 17th March 1984*

Indeed the best performing contract in the survey was linked to Target's Managed Fund. *The Daily Telegraph - Saturday, 16th December 1984*

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There is no doubt that investors who had the foresight or luck to put money in the Target Managed Fund deserve a large dose of self-congratulation. *Financial Times - 11th October 1985*

If you're self-employed or the director of a private company, you'll know all about the tax advantages of investing in a pension plan. Your biggest problem will be selecting the best from the rest. Obviously, the most important factor will be the size of your pension fund when you retire. All too often, this decision is taken as a result of comparing projected growth figures, whereas the only realistic basis for comparison is achieved growth. The table above compares the actual results of an investment in the Target Personal Pension Plan - linked to the Target Managed Pension Fund - with three leading with profits policies and two other unit linked plans invested in managed funds. What it doesn't show, however, is that the Target plan has out-performed all other personal pension plans over the last ten years. What's more, only the Target plan provides you with a guaranteed loanback facility* enabling you to draw on your investment whenever you like, with no additional management charges.

And, with Target you're not committed to keeping up a regular payment. You may vary the level of your investment to suit your personal circumstances. Except, of course, with a growth record like ours, we think you'll want to invest more rather than less. To find out more, fill out and return the Freepost coupon below.

Please let me have further information on the Target Pension Plan.

Name _____

Age _____ Occupation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Business (if no) _____

Send to Dept MF, Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd, Freepost, Aylesbury, Bucks HP14 5AA, Tel: Aylesbury (0290) 3011.

TARGET TARGET GROUP PLC

UNIT TRUSTS - LIFE ASSURANCE - PENSIONS - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust

To: Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd, Dealing Dept, 5, Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 1AA. Telephone: 01-638 5757.

I/We wish to invest £ _____ (minimum £500) in the Henderson European Smaller Companies Trust at the fixed price of 78.9p* per unit and enclose a remittance payable to Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd.

If you wish to have net income re-invested please tick: This offer will close at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday March 11th 1986. After the close of this offer, units will be available at the daily quoted price.

If you would like further information about the Share Exchange Service, please tick Joint applicants must sign and attach full names and addresses separately.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title _____

Forename(s) (in full) _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

My professional adviser is _____

Henderson. The Investment Managers.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns for No., Company, and Year price or loss. Lists various companies under categories like ELECTRICALS, BUILDING AND ROADS, and INDUSTRIALS A-D.

Weekly Dividend table with columns for Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, and Week Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, and %.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns for No., Year, and Price.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns for No., Year, and Price.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns for No., Year, and Price.

UNDATED table with columns for No., Year, and Price.

INDEX LINKED table with columns for No., Year, and Price.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns for No., Year, and Price.

ELECTRICALS table with columns for No., Year, and Price.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Unsettled trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Feb 24. Dealings end March 10. Contango day March 10. Settlement day, March 17. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BREWERIES table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

INDUSTRIALS A-D table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

ELECTRICALS table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

FINANCE AND LAND table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

FOODS table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

HOTELS AND CATERERS table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

INDUSTRIALS A-D table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

E-K table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

L-R table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

S-Z table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

INSURANCE table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

LEISURE table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

MINING table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000 WEEKLY DIVIDEND £20,000. Claims required for +36 points. +198 points for +36 points. Claims should ring 0254-53272.

OVERSEAS TRADERS table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

PROPERTY table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

SHIPPING table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

SHOES AND LEATHER table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

Table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

TEXTILES table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

TOBACCO table with columns for No., Company, Price, Change, and %.

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STOCK LIST

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